

Giraud to visit Gulf and Jordan

PARIS (R) — Defence Minister Andre Giraud will pay a four-day visit beginning on Friday to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Jordan, the ministry said Saturday. Diplomatic sources said the visit could be related to a multi-million-dollar arms deal Jordan has been negotiating with France. A ministry spokesman said a detailed schedule for Mr. Giraud's visit was not available on Saturday, but the first stopover on the trip would be in Jordan. France is one of Qatar's main arms suppliers along with Britain and the United States, and the UAE is set to receive from France in September the first of 36 Mirage 2000 fighters. King Hussein was in Paris only last month for discussions that diplomats said included the purchase of French air defence equipment to replace a \$1.9 billion arms package blocked by the U.S. Congress.

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Cabinet endorses law on aid fund

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday ratified a draft law governing the National Aid Fund which was enacted in accordance to directives of His Majesty King Hussein. The new fund aims at helping Jordanian families who are living under the poverty line. The fund will be financed by governmental and voluntary contributions. In another development, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai issued instructions to the Jordanian Company for Agricultural Marketing to settle outstanding payments to farmers. The prime minister also instructed the Finance Ministry to pay financial aid to those farmers who abide by and follow the national agricultural pattern.

Gaza and Beersheba citizens allowed to own land in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Citizens from the occupied Gaza Strip and Beersheba district in occupied Palestine are now allowed to own land and real estate in Jordan, according to instructions issued by Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh. The instructions, sent to the director of the Lands and Survey Department, said that citizens of the two occupied areas in Palestine will be allowed to own land and property in accordance with Jordanian laws.

Popular soft drink and gelatin banned

NEW YORK (R) — Officials in New York have banned from sale a popular soft drink and Chicago health authorities forbid sales of a flavored gelatin after anonymous telephone callers claimed to have poisoned the products with cyanide. Government technicians said they had so far found no cyanide in lemon-lime slice soft drinks or Jell-O gelatin products in on-going tests. Health authorities in Chicago ordered Jell-O products removed from sale in all city shops after its manufacturers, General Foods, was told by anonymous callers that boxes of sugar-free Jell-O on sale at Jewel and Kroger supermarkets in Detroit and Chicago had been poisoned.

China sends condolences to Vietnam

PEKING (AP) — China has sent a message of condolence to Vietnam on the death of Le Duan, officials said Saturday, even though the communist leader's policies in Kampuchea caused a Sino-Vietnamese rift. The standing committee of the Chinese Communist Party sent the condolence to the State Council of Vietnam, a Foreign Ministry official said. China and what was then North Vietnam were firm allies during the U.S. and French campaigns in Vietnam. Le Duan, however, was said to have been the closest among the Vietnamese leaders to the Soviet Union, China's longtime rival.

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By Lami K. Andoni
and Rama Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Saturday welcomed a French-Soviet proposal to convene a meeting of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to help organize an international conference on the Middle East and draw up a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Answering reporters' questions at a press conference he held at the Al Nadwa Palace, the King said: "There is nothing I can say but endorse the French-Soviet call since it advocates what we have been trying to achieve... I am encouraged and I hope to see it take place."

The King reiterated his commitment to find a just and durable solution to the Palestinian problem despite the collapse of joint efforts between the Kingdom and the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"I am concerned to bring an end to this nightmare," he said during the 90-minute press conference. "We have never changed our view of the Palestinian problem and we will uphold our positions... we will never waver from our commitment for a just and durable peace."

He said the Palestinians should be involved in any negotiation towards settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In reply to a question on Jordan's relations with the PLO, the King said Jordan always respected and would continue to respect the PLO's status as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. "We are leaving it to the Palestinian people to decide" as to who should lead them, he said. "The PLO should derive its strength and support from the occupied territories," he added. "I trust the judgment of the Palestinian people."

Asked what option Jordan has if the people in the occupied territories chose to retain the present leadership of the PLO, the King said: "We have done our

duty and stated the facts... and we are leaving the entire issue to the Palestinian people and the Arab Nation."

"Any leadership dedicated to serving the Palestinians and their cause will gain respect and support from Jordan and others," he said. Asked whether his Feb. 19 speech, in which he announced the termination of joint political efforts with the PLO, meant that he was calling for a new leadership of the PLO, the King said: "It was a statement of facts and not an appeal to the West Bankers to choose a new leadership."

Asked if he would be ready to meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat if the latter asked for a meeting, the King said such an encounter will depend on "the topics to be discussed."

On Jordan's differences with the PLO, the King said while the Kingdom saw as top priority the recovery of the occupied territories the PLO was giving foremost importance to who should rule the land.

Also, he said, Jordan feels that the feelings and aspirations of the people living in the occupied territories should be given preference over those who live outside the Israeli occupation.

"We do not agree with the PLO view that there is no difference between the Palestinians living inside the occupied territories and

those who are outside," he said. The King said this week's decision to close down PLO offices in Jordan was an independent decision by the Kingdom and was not motivated by any other consideration or influence by any outside party.

Aid to West Bank

On Jordan's plans to extend financial aid to development projects in the occupied West Bank, the King reiterated his commitment to the programme. "The alternative will be to abandon the Palestinian people to their fate and Jordan will never do that," he said. "The main aim of Jordan's plans is to strengthen the people's attachment to their land."

Jordan also has security considerations over Israel's drive to evict the Palestinians under occupation to the East Bank and the Kingdom's development aid for the occupied territories is aimed at foiling the Israeli plans, the King said.

Jordan would continue to develop and build both East and West Banks in economy and growth, he said.

On "political" implications of Jordan's aid to the West Bank, the King said: "The (Jordanian-Palestinian) unity according to the

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq reports retaking parts of Majnoon and repulsing seaborne Iranian raid

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Saturday reported taking back a further stretch of the man-made Majnoon Islands in oil-rich border marshlands occupied by Iranian forces in 1984.

A military communique also said Iraqi forces repulsed a seaborne raid on a disused deepwater oil terminal off the Fao Peninsula and sank eight Iranian vessels.

Baghdad, Television extended its morning broadcast by three hours to announce the second gain this year on the Majnoon front in the Gulf war, raging since 1980. It said Iraqi forces launched a lightning sweep against Iranian positions on the eastern, central and western embankments, killed most of the defenders and forced the few survivors to flee.

Last February the Iraqis reported recapturing parts of the islands, constructed in the 1970s to exploit billions of dollars worth of oil deposits under the marshes.

Iran claimed Saturday that naval commandos, backed by long-range coastal artillery and naval gunfire, destroyed Iraqi radar and missile bases on the offshore Al Amiqi oil platform in the Gulf used to attack ships.

Iraq said the night-time raid that ended before dawn was "crushed."

The Iraqi communique gave no casualty figures for the Majnoon attack. It said Iraqi troops were supported by artillery and armoured units.

A spokesman said the raid on the oil terminal was carried out by Iranian troops in boats, backed by larger vessels.

The terminal lies some 20 kilometres south of the disused oil port of Fao, seized by Iranian forces last February in a surprise push across the Shatt Al Arab waterway dividing the warring countries.

It was the main oil outlet for Iraq before the conflict flared and

stopped its exports through the Gulf.

An Iraqi News Agency report said the Iraqi garrison on the 1.5 square-kilometre Al Amiqi platform destroyed six medium-sized Iranian boats, a command ship, a gunboat and "large numbers" of small landing craft packed with marines.

The Al Amiqi platform, called Al Amaya by the Iraqis, was built to pump oil onto tankers. Iraq exported an estimated 2.5 million barrels of crude a day through Al Amaya and Al Bakr.

Neither platform has been used as an oil installation since the Gulf war broke out in September 1980.

The Iraqis later installed naval radar units and electronic surveillance equipment on Al Amiqi to monitor Iran's coastline, including the big naval base of Bandar Khomeini and Bushehr and the vital oil terminal on Kharg Island, 160 kilometres to the southeast.

Egypt begins mutiny trials

CAIRO (AP) — The trial of more than one hundred security police conscripts charged with mutiny and sabotage last February opened Saturday and was immediately postponed to October at the request of defence lawyers.

The 110 central security conscripts are the first out of 1,205 policemen formally charged on April 3 with rebellion against authority, destruction of public and private property, illegal assembly and other charges.

Some defendants who will be tried later face charges of murder and attempted murder.

Saturday's hearing, presided by Judge Medhat Abdul Fattah of the Supreme State Security Court, was taken up by formalities. He granted a defence lawyers' postponement request to allow them time to study the case files.

The conscripts, handcuffed and wearing blue prison uniforms, were divided into two groups of 69 and 41, depending on the charges filed against them.

The Feb. 25-26 conscript riots began at a camp near the Giza Pyramids on Cairo's western outskirts and rapidly spread to other security force camps in the capital and several provincial cities.

Nixon arrives in Moscow

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Richard Nixon arrived in Moscow for a private visit on Saturday after consulting President Ronald Reagan, a U.S. embassy spokesman said.

But he said Mr. Nixon, on his first trip to the Soviet capital since he left office in 1974 after the Watergate affair, was carrying no letter from Mr. Reagan.

The spokesman said he knew nothing further about Mr. Nixon's visit. "I don't know why he is here or where he is staying. He hasn't been in touch with us," he said.

Mr. Nixon, 73, declined to speak to reporters as he arrived at Sheremetyevo airport.

It was possible that Mr. Nixon,

who helped to forge the period of U.S.-Soviet détente in the early 1970s, might be trying to help arrange a new summit between Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Nixon signed the Salt-I Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty and the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty with the late Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow in 1972 and received Mr. Brezhnev the following year.

Mr. Nixon's spokesman, John Taylor, told AP on Saturday the former president was on a six-day private fact-finding mission that will include a meeting with former Soviet Ambassador to Washington Anatoly F. Dobrynin.

Bush edges towards nomination

WASHINGTON (R) — Vice President George Bush moved a step closer to an open candidacy for the Republican Party's 1988 presidential nomination with the formation of an exploratory campaign committee, his office said Saturday.

Mr. Bush joins former Senate majority leader Howard Baker as the second Republican to form a 1988 exploratory committee, which is one step short of candidacy.

Former Delaware Governor Pierre du Pont is the only

Republican to set up an official presidential campaign.

The committee hopes to raise \$750,000 to support 1,500 candidates loyal to Mr. Bush in a local party organising election in Michigan on Aug. 5.

The Michigan precinct delegate elections, which choose those who will ultimately select representatives to the Republican's 1988 presidential nominating convention, is considered the first test in the 1988 campaign.

Motorcycle bombers on rampage in west Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Police said Saturday dynamite-throwing motorcyclists staged four overnight attacks in west Beirut as the nation's main Christian groupings rejected the return of the Syrian army to the Lebanese capital.

Thunderous blasts shattered window glass in a two-kilometre radius at west Beirut's commercial district of Hamra as the helmeted motorbike riders struck. No casualties were reported.

Police said the assailants tossed dynamite sticks at a parking lot, the backyard of a movie house and the Ministry of Economy in four separate speedy runs in as many hours at various Hamra locations.

The ministry was attacked twice. "Several" eyewitnesses have testified that they have seen two helmeted attackers on a red Suzuki motorbike hurl dynamite and race away in each of the attacks. But we cannot ascertain that the pair were responsible for all four bombings," said a police spokesman.

"We believe these attacks are part of a campaign of sabotage against Syria's military intervention to enforce a security plan in west Beirut," the spokesman said.

The motorcyclists' bombings followed a spate of TNT explosions that rocked the mainly Muslim western sector in three previous consecutive nights. One went off near a Syrian intelligence beachfront office. No casualties were reported in any of these blasts.

About 200 commandos and paratroopers of the Syrian Army's special units corps moved into west Beirut nine days ago to help the Lebanese army and police end a 27-month reign of militias.

The Syrians came to west Beirut at the request of Prime Minister Rashid Karami. They have 25,000 troops stationed in northern and eastern Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League mandate to smother Lebanon's civil war.

Various factions declared support for the Syrian intervention, which is aimed at ending the militia chaos that had plagued west Beirut with assassinations, kidnappings, truck bombings and bank robberies.



His Majesty King Hussein holds a press conference at the Al Nadwa Palace on Saturday (Photo by Yousef Al Ailan)

Kuwaiti emir names new cabinet with no major changes in line-up

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait's emir on Saturday named a new cabinet nine days after dissolving parliament and suspending parts of the constitution because of what he called national security and economic crises.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, made no major changes in the new line-up, keeping the key ministers of foreign affairs, defence, oil, finance and interior under the prime minister, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Sheikh Jaber dissolved the country's elected national assembly on July 3 because of conflict with the appointed government.

There are seven new faces in the 21 ministers named to serve under Sheikh Saad, who was prime minister in the previous administration of 16 ministers.

Some dual portfolios have been split and new posts created in the expanded cabinet.

A dropout was Education Minister Hassan Al Ibrahim, who had roused the ire of religious

politicians when he announced an impromptu plan to secularise and modernise school curricula.

Former Attorney General Anwar Al Noori replaced Mr. Ibrahim in the education ministry.

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah was reinstated as deputy premier and foreign minister. Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah retained the oil portfolio. Sheikh Salem Al Sabah the defence ministry, and Sheikh Nawaf Al Sabah the interior ministry.

Here's a full list of the new cabinet:

1. Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, prime minister
2. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, deputy premier and foreign minister
3. Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, defence
4. Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, interior
5. Jassem Al Khorafi, finance
6. Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, oil
7. Nasser Al Ahmad Al Sabah, information
8. Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi,

public health

9. Abdul Rahman Al Hooti, public works

10. Isa Al Mazidi, minister of state for services

11. Mohammad Abdul Mohsen Al Rifai, power and water

12. Khaled Ahmad Al Jassar, religious endowments and Islamic affairs

13. Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed, minister of state for cabinet affairs

14. Khaled Al Jumaian, communications

15. Saud Al Assimi, minister of state for foreign affairs

16. Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Sabah, social affairs and labour

17. Abdul Rahman Al Ghonaim, minister of state for municipal affairs

18. Nasser Al Rowdhan, minister of state for housing affairs

19. Anwar Al Noori, education

20. Mohammad Sulaiman Sayyed Ali, planning

21. Dhari Al Osman, justice and legal affairs

22. Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khaled, trade and industry.

Khaddam: Long discussion needed to settle Syrian-Iraqi differences

JEDDAH (R) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam indicated in remarks published on Saturday that Syria and Iraq hoped to settle their differences but the process needed "long discussions."

Mr. Khaddam was quoted as saying in an interview in Vienna with the Saudi Arabian newspaper Ashraq Al Awsat that differences between the two countries preceded the Gulf war, in which Syria supports Iran against Iraq.

Mr. Khaddam said Damascus and Baghdad hoped to end the 15 years of the dispute "but this requires a long discussion."

Syria and Iraq, ruled by rival wings of the Baath Arab Socialist

Party, have a long history of political and ideological confrontation.

A meeting of the Syrian and Iraqi foreign ministers planned for last month was cancelled without explanation.

When interviewed, Mr. Khaddam was in Vienna for a United Nations meeting on Namibia.

He told the Saudi newspaper Syria's drive to achieve a strategic balance with Israel would not necessarily lead to war but could help achieve Middle East peace within the framework of an international conference.

Reiterating Damascus' stated opposition to terrorism, Mr.

Khaddam said Syria itself was a victim.

He told the newspaper that 144 Syrians had been killed in one terrorist incident this year, bringing the total to 500 in the past few years. He gave no details.

Syria has been hit by a wave of terror attacks in recent months for which officials have blamed Israeli, Iraqi and Lebanese agents.

Damascus supported national resistance against occupation. Mr. Khaddam said, but "as for other works such as hijacking of aeroplanes or placing explosives, these acts are condemned by Syria because they don't help our aims..."

Chirac condemns Paris blast

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, in an emotional funeral oration on Saturday, said Wednesday's Paris bombing which killed a policeman and injured 22 others was a "strike against democracy" by "blind assassins, weak and anonymous."

The massive blast at a police headquarters near city hall killed anti-crime squad Inspector Marcel Basdevant, 54.

Responsibility for the attack was claimed on Friday by Action Directe, a left-wing urban guerrilla group.

In his oration Mr. Chirac called Inspector Basdevant's killing "the most underhanded of all, the most detestable" because it was committed by "terrorists, blind assassins, weak and anonymous."

"In striking against the police, the terrorists attempt to strike against our democracy," he said. Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and Junior Minister for Security Robert Pandraud also attended the funeral, held in the Court of Honour at the capital's central police headquarters.

France rejects American 'interference' in Lyon case

PARIS (R) — Foreign Affairs Minister Jean Bernard Raimond on Saturday summoned U.S. Charge d'Affaires William Barracough to the ministry to reject the U.S. embassy's criticism of a French court decision as "interference."

Mr. Raimond, according to a ministry statement, told Mr. Barracough the U.S. embassy's statement of surprise on Friday, that suspected guerrilla leader Georges Ibrahim Abdallah had received only a four-year sentence from a Lyon court on weapons charges was "unacceptable."

The U.S. embassy said the Abdallah sentence was "lighter than we have seen in similar cases in other European countries."

The foreign minister responded on Saturday: "This statement represents a grave misunderstanding of the principle of the independence of justice and constitutes a regrettable interference in French affairs."

Abdallah, 35, sentenced in Lyon on Thursday, is expected to stand trial later this year in Paris on charges of involvement in the 1982 murder of Charles Ray, the deputy American military attaché in Paris.

Abdallah is believed to have led the group that claimed to have carried out the attack, a group of Maronite Christian Marxists known as the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction (FARL).

The group also said it was responsible for the murder of Israeli diplomat Yacov Barsimantov and other guerrilla actions.

"Although Abdallah was not on trial for murder in Lyon," said the U.S. embassy statement, "he is associated with a group that has killed or tried to kill several U.S. diplomats."

A U.S. spokesman said the United States has filed a petition asking to enter the Ray-Abdallah trial as a plaintiff.

Abdallah is one of three guerrilla suspects being held in France whose release has been demanded by a mysterious guerrilla group, the "Committee of Solidarity with Arab and Middle Eastern Prisoners."

The United States, which has refused to negotiate for the release of American hostages, has been critical of French attempts to gain the freedom of seven hostage Frenchmen by the exchange of guerrillas held prisoner in France.

Falangist leaders denounce Syrian presence in W. Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Hardline Falangist leaders have denounced as illegal Syria's military presence in west Beirut and accused their opponents of trying to partition Lebanon.

In a statement issued Friday night, eight days after Syrian commandos and security men began supervising a peace drive in the Muslim sector, Falangist militia and party officials also reiterated calls for a ceasefire between the militias.

"The Syrian military entry into west Beirut is an illegal entry," it said. "Whatever the justifications, (it) is a violation of national sovereignty because it was not coupled with the approval of legitimate authorities."

This was the first official Falangist reaction to the Syrian-sponsored drive after a week of indirect and conflicting signals from Falangist leaders.

A diplomat based in Christian east Beirut said: "It seems a cautious statement, apparently because the Christians are adopting a wait-and-see approach to the first Syrian military presence in Beirut for four years."

A series of explosions have been the only apparent violent protests in west Beirut against joint Lebanese-Syrian troops patrols there.

Witnesses said four sticks of dynamite blasted a central west Beirut area Friday, but no casualties were reported. Two days ago, dynamite was thrown from a speeding car near a beach used by soldiers.

Friday night's statement, following a meeting of officials from President Amin Gemayel's Falange Party, the Liberal Party, the "Lebanese Forces" militia and ex-President Camille Chamoun, reiterated calls for a ceasefire between Falangist and opposition militias.

It urged "the consolidation of a military truce on all fronts and in all areas, and the start of political dialogue among Lebanese without external intervention."

Official Syrian newspapers have said security moves in west Beirut should be extended to the Falangist sector of the country. The Syrians said they deployed in the sector at the behest of leaders there.

Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, Brig. Ghazi Kanaan, told the weekly *Nouvelles Magazines*: "Syrian observers have been here for some time... they came here with the approval of... the ministerial committee." He was referring to a Muslim Ministers' Committee in west Beirut.

But the latest Falangist statement brushed aside the committee's role. "Every decision or measure taken by the so-called government committee... is a measure that means partition," it said.

Sunni Muslim Education Minister Selim Hoss, the first senior opposition leader to react to the Falangist statement, told reporters he was dismayed.

"We feel great disappointment because we had hoped that stability in west Beirut would be a prelude to stability throughout Lebanon," he said.

Lebanon," he said.

"We had hoped it would lead to the opening of new horizons and to political action... far from the roar of guns," he said.

The three factions who made the statement are the most powerful within the dominant Maronite catholic community, which makes up the majority of the population in the Christian heartland north and north east of Beirut.

The independent Maronite bloc and the Armenian bloc, which among them control 18 Christian votes in Lebanon's 99-seat parliament, boycotted the meeting that issued the anti-Syrian statement at Mr. Chamoun's house.

Both blocs maintain close ties with Syrian President Hafez Assad's government, Lebanon's main power broker.

"We know we're not going to influence the course of affairs in west Beirut by our rejection. But it is a matter of principle that should be scored," said a Falangist spokesman. He refused to be named.

27 die in Cairo building collapse

CAIRO (AP) — A Seven-story apartment building has collapsed, killing 27 and seriously injuring 20 others, Egyptian newspapers reported in their Saturday early editions.

The building which was housing 100 persons, collapsed early Friday in the Nile Delta city of Mit-Ghamr, 75 kilometres north of Cairo, the newspaper *Al-Ahram* said without elaborating whether all the occupants were there when the building came down.

Another daily, *Al-Gomhouria*, said the owner of the building and eight of his children were among the dead. It said the wife escaped death because she was out buying food for breakfast.

No reason was given for the collapse.

In January, four 100 years old neighbouring apartment buildings on a congested downtown Cairo street collapsed in rapid succession, killing 10 persons.

The buildings which housed 125 people, were between five and seven floors tall. Two of them were vacated by condemnation orders.

But the building that collapsed in Mit-Ghamr on Friday was only several years old, according to newspaper reports.

Victim of Chernobyl disaster buried in Morocco

RABAT (R) — Moroccan nuclear physics student Samir Ed Dehich, who died in Kiev after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union, has been buried in a sealed metal coffin in his home town of Fez, the opposition press reported Saturday.

The coffin, which was flown from Moscow on Thursday, was not opened before burial in the Sidi Bou Bekr cemetery and members of Dehich's family were not able to see the body to identify it formally or determine the cause of death, according to Al Itihad Al Ishraqi, which is published by the Socialist Union of People's Forces.

The paper said the coffin was accompanied by a death certificate in Russian with an Arabic translation but the cause of death was not given.

The certificate said Dehich, 22, died in Kiev on June 26. He was one of several hundred Moroccans studying in the Soviet Union.

Change of premier shows Bourguiba is still master

By Charles Lambelin
Roussier

TUNIS — The sudden sacking of Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali shows that ageing President Habib Bourguiba is determined to stay Tunisia's absolute master, according to Western diplomats and political analysts.

But Tuesday's replacement of Mr. Mzali by economist Rachid Sfar does not necessarily mean that the issue of who will succeed the 82-year-old president has been settled, they said.

Mr. Sfar, a fiscal expert who was economy and finance minister until Tuesday, is a technocrat without a strong political base and his tenure of office might be short, they added.

Mr. Mzali, who had been prime minister since 1980, was sacked without ceremony. There was no official handover to Mr. Sfar and Mr. Mzali left quietly for his home

on the outskirts of Tunis.

Mr. Bourguiba has often made his ministers scapegoats for government failures.

In the 1960s, he ruthlessly sacked economic overlord Ahmad Ben Salah, ending an experiment in Socialism. Mr. Ben Salah was tried for mismanagement of the economy and jailed for 10 years in 1970. He later escaped and lives in exile.

After Mr. Ben Salah, Prime Minister Hedi Nouri, who initiated a period of very liberal economic policies, was spared dismissal when he was struck down by a stroke in 1980 soon after a bloody Libyan-inspired raid on the southern town of Gafsa.

Mr. Mzali's six-year tenure was now likely to come under fire on two main fronts, education and the economy, diplomats said.

Last month, Mr. Bourguiba strongly denounced failures in the

education system and said French should be taught from the first year of primary education.

This was a direct disavowal of Mr. Mzali who had been the main force behind the Arabisation programme.

But he is more likely to be judged on his economic achievements.

His clampdown on wage increases led to a long and bitter trial of strength with the General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT) led by veteran trade unionist Habib Achour.

Mr. Achour was finally removed and jailed for three years on an embezzlement charge.

One of Mr. Sfar's top priorities as finance minister has been to push through parliament a new draft budget, slashing costs in an already tight spending programme.

He told a news conference last month that lower oil prices, fewer tourists and a poor harvest would mean a loss of foreign currency revenue of about \$300 million while the state budget was running a deficit of \$230 million.

Report compares Syrian, Israeli military strengths

By Avi Hoffman
The Jerusalem Post

THE ISRAELI army remains "qualitatively and quantitatively stronger than the Syrian Armed Forces, despite Syria's military buildup over the past two or three years."

So writes Aharon Levran, a leading Israeli military analyst, in *The Middle East Military Balance 1985*, published by Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies by The Jerusalem Post. The book was presented to the public at a Tel Aviv press conference this week.

In a searching look at forces in the field, Levran writes that Syrian troops outnumber the Israeli army by 850,000 to 550,000 even after reservists on both sides have been called up. The Israeli army is based largely on reservists, while Syrian reservists serve mainly to bring the manpower complement in the various units up to par.

But the Israelis, when fully mobilised, can still put more ground formations into the field. In fact, Levran writes, Israel's advantage in number of formations will persist even if, in a major confrontation between Israel and Syria, some forces are allocated to contain possible threats on other fronts. This quantitative advantage gives the Israeli high command greater flexibility in combat.

Levran points out that the quantitative factor is not decisive in assessing the military balance. Other determining factors include the quality of weaponry, troops and command systems.

Syrian armament, overwhelmingly of Soviet manufacture, has improved markedly, Levran notes. But Israeli armament, most of which comes from the U.S., is still superior.

Israeli-made weapons and sophisticated Israeli upgrading of imported equipment add a further qualitative dimension to the Israeli armament.

An advantage the Syrian armed forces enjoy over the Israelis is

continues to enjoy qualitative superiority over the Syrians in manpower and quality of command, Levran contends.

A major new factor in Syria's military posture against Israel, according to Levran, is its ability to strike deep within Israel. This capability is based not only on Syria's improved strike aircraft, but even more on its arsenal of surface-to-surface missiles, notably the SS-21 and Scud.

Missiles have a far greater capacity than strike aircraft to penetrate and survive in Israeli airspace, Levran states. Consequently they are more likely to reach their targets and cause damage. The highly accurate SS-21 missile in particular, with its estimated 120-kilometre range, gives Damascus a far better strike capability against critical targets.

Above all, these missiles enable the Syrians to strike easily at population centres deep inside Israel. Since Israel has not experienced significant attacks on its population centres or on vital installations inside the country in the past, a war with Syria under present conditions may well constitute a wholly new situation, Levran writes.

The Syrian missile threat might affect Israeli decision-making concerning the very course of the war. It could, for example, cause Israel to refrain from attacking strategic targets in the rear of Syria.

Levran points out that Israel is not helpless in the face of this new element in Syria's strategic capability.

Israel's capacity to respond to the missile threat and hit other "soft" targets inside Syria is probably even greater than it was in the past. Nevertheless, should hostilities erupt, Israel would have to weigh the Syrian threat very carefully. This might produce a situation of mutual deterrence, which, despite certain benefits, could also restrict Israel's ability to escalate the war if that were deemed necessary, Levran writes.

An advantage the Syrian armed forces enjoy over the Israelis is

that the nature of the Syrian government and society gives the country greater capacity to sustain losses of manpower and combat material. Levran points out that in 1973, for example, the Israelis destroyed over 1,000 Syrian tanks out of an order-of-battle of 1,300. Yet despite the equipment and tank crew losses, Damascus not only persisted in the fighting, but waged an effective war of attrition on the Golan Heights.

Furthermore, Damascus enjoys massive Soviet backing, both in the ongoing supply of weapons during a war and in strategic support in defeat. And Syrians have greatly enhanced their defensive fortifications.

In the event of a war, Israel could once again expect to be subject to time constraints imposed by the superpowers. Another strategic difficulty that could emerge in a future war with Syria, Levran says, is an outgrowth of the Lebanon war: A lack of an Israeli national consensus.

Levran therefore believes that, although the Israeli army may be deemed stronger than the Syrian Armed Forces, its ability to achieve a decisive victory or even register major gains on the ground is no longer assured under existing and foreseeable conditions.

According to Levran, the Syrians are aware of the difficulties and constraints the Israeli army would face in seeking to defeat them. In the appropriate strategic circumstances this awareness could lead Damascus to conclude that it could maintain a situation of controlled tension vis-a-vis Israel, either on the Golan Heights or in Lebanon.

Levran believes that the Syrian posture could be expressed in direct clashes, encouragement of guerrilla activity and so on. But greater self-confidence notwithstanding, it is doubtful whether the Syrian Armed Forces will initiate a military confrontation with Israel as long as they are not more certain about all their force components, particularly the air force and air defence, Levran concludes.

Cruise ship captain dismisses epidemic report

LIMASSOL, Cyprus (AP) — Passengers and crewmen aboard the luxury British cruise liner *Canberra*, a veteran of the 1982 Falklands War, Saturday dismissed press reports that the ship has been plagued by mystery virus as greatly exaggerated.

"British press reports have made out that we're some sort of plague ship," Capt. Ian Gibb told reporters allowed aboard the 45,000-ton liner when it docked in this southern Cyprus port.

"We've had a few cases of tummy upset, but nothing serious," he said.

"Nobody's been hospitalised and the few people confined to their cabins are out and about again in about 12 hours."

He admitted this was the second cruise affected by the virus which medical experts have not yet been able to trace.

The *Canberra* sailed from Southampton in southern England July 5 for a Mediterranean cruise with 1,600 passengers aboard. Port authorities in Southampton claimed they warned P and O, the liner's owners, that hygiene aboard the ship needed urgent improvement.

More than 150 passengers were stricken with severe vomiting and diarrhoea on the previous cruise, Capt. Gibb said about 100 passengers and crew members have been affected on the current voyage so far.

Traffic resumes through Cyprus crossings

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot authorities Saturday reopened crossing points to the Greek-Cypriot side after a week-long protest closure of the "green line" dividing Cyprus.

Traffic flowed freely between the Turkish and Greek sectors of the capital Nicosia Saturday morning.

Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş ordered the tit-for-tat closure after Greek Cypriots shut

the crossing points during a controversial visit to breakaway Northern Cyprus by Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal from July 2-4.

Mr. Denktaş, in a statement Friday, warned: "In case of another Greek closure, the Turkish-Cypriot side will retaliate with a closure of double duration."

Turkish Cypriots are preparing to celebrate the anniversary on

July 20 of the 1974 Turkish military intervention that split the island. In the past, anniversary celebrations have sparked the closure of crossing points by Greek-Cypriot demonstrators.

The last closure of the crossing points separated several hundred Danish and Austrian United Nations peace-keeping forces based in the north from their headquarters in the south.

Former British official helps Egypt on Taba

By Asher Wallfish
The Jerusalem Post

THE FORMER legal adviser to the British Foreign Office, Sir Ian Sinclair, is engaged as a senior adviser to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry for the purpose of the Taba arbitration negotiations.

This was reported last week on the BBC Arabic Service, which said that the Sir Ian Sinclair had personally confirmed he took on

the file about a year ago. Sinclair, who retired from the Foreign Office two years ago, is in private practice. He is currently spending three months in Geneva for the United Nations International Law Commission.

He told the BBC it was not uncommon for legal advisers, on retirement, to take on foreign governments as clients.

He declined to comment on the substance of the Taba issue, the BBC reported, and he said he had had no access to the Foreign

Office files since his retirement. These files contain material relating to all the governments involved in the history of the Sinai demarcation controversy — the Ottoman Turks, the Egyptians, and the British in Egypt and in Mandatory Palestine. It is not known whether Israel has access to all the files in the Foreign Office in London.

Sinclair, who has a reputation as "one of the finest legal minds the Foreign Office ever had," did not serve in any Middle East postings.

Ozal briefs Junejo on Cyprus development

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, who visited North Cyprus last week, explained developments on the divided island during talks Saturday with Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, a Turkish Foreign Ministry official said.

They also discussed economic relations, which the official said had dominated their talks for lack of political issues.

The official said Mr. Ozal explained in detail the latest developments in Cyprus.

"However there was no request from the Turkish side to Pakistan for the recognition of the Turkish-Cypriot state," he added. The breakaway "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" is recognised only by Ankara.

The official quoted Mr. Junejo as saying Pakistan supported the Turkish approach toward the problems of the Turkish community on Cyprus.

On relations between his country and India, Mr. Junejo was reported as saying Pakistan's aim was to create an atmosphere

which would keep both sides from confrontation.

Although there had been an improvement in relations lately, they were still not at the level desired by Pakistan, he was quoted as saying.

The Turkish official said Mr. Junejo and Mr. Ozal agreed on efforts to improve sea transport and lines of communication between their countries. The two sides will discuss this at technical levels shortly.

Mr. Junejo is due to give a news conference in Istanbul Sunday,

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17:00 Karam
17:30 Cartoons
18:00 Children programmes
18:30 News Summary
19:00 Local programme
19:30 Programme review
19:45 News programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 News programme on Qatar
20:40 Programme on Jersah Festival
21:00 Arabic series
21:30 Tomorrow's programmes
22:00 Varieties programme
22:30 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Varieties programme

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Ecole des Fans
18:30 Catherine
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Magazine Zero One
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Charlie and Company
21:10 The World Challenge
22:00 News in English
22:30 Daily review of the Jersah Festival activities
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08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Pop Session
10:00 In Concert
10:30 News Summary
10:45 Pop Session Contd.
11:00 News Summary
11:30 Pop Session Contd.
11:45 News Bulletin
12:00 News Bulletin
12:15 Science Report
12:30 Concert Hour
12:45 News Summary
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITION

"A French exhibition entitled 'La

Culture Centre (until July 24).

JERASH FESTIVAL

South Theatre
7:00-8:30 p.m. The Emir Folklore

9:30-11:30 p.m. Alma Ata Young

Ballet "Soviet Union"

Artimes
7:00-8:30 p.m. Indonesian troupe

"Indonesian"
9:00-10:00 p.m. Qahwa Muzna Play

"Jordan"
Sight and Sound
8:00-9:00 p.m. Jabel Al Sahab Play

"Jordan"
Forum
6:30-7:15 p.m. The Folklore troupe

8:00-9:00 Theatre Aban "France"

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267

American Centre Tel. 644371

American Centre Library Tel. 641520

British Council Tel. 6361778

French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009

Goethe Institute Tel. 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 639777

Yeha Arts Centre Tel. 665195

Yeha Youth City Tel. 6671816

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Amman Municipal Library Tel. 637111

University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555

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King endorses Franco-Soviet call

(Continued from page 1)

first resolution passed by the Jordanian-Palestinian parliament did not infringe upon the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

"It is our duty to extend support for the West Bank and we cannot be deterred by adverse comments or criticism," he added.

On reports in the Israeli press that Jordan was planning behind-the-scenes moves in the Palestinian problem, the King said: "We are facing a very alert and scheming enemy. No report coming from the Israelis should be taken at its face value."

On reports that Palestinian extremist groups were threatening West Bank leaders who had indicated their willingness to take up mayoral jobs in West Bank villages, the King said: "Which is better to have — Israeli or Arab administrators in West Bank villages? I cannot comment. But it is obvious that we need to do something to help the West Bank, not on the basis of individuals but in a collective context."

In a reply to a question whether U.S. Senator Gary Hart had brought him a message from the Israeli government during a return visit to Jordan, the King said Mr. Hart "was just passing by on his way to the U.S."

The King said his recent visits to France, the United States and Britain did not produce any new peace initiative to settle the Palestinian problem. But, he said, Jordan would welcome any such initiative.

On the shelved American proposal to sell advanced weapons to Jordan, the King said the Kingdom reserved its right to procure arms from any source it found fit, including Europe, the

Soviet Union and other nations in the world.

"Policies of Jordan will not change as a result of the American ban," he said. "We are getting arms from the Soviet Union, France and Britain," he added.

The King said he hoped to visit the Soviet Union soon, but no definite plans had been made.

On Jordan's efforts towards settling differences between Syria and Iraq, the King said: "Our efforts are continuing. We are continuously helping our brothers to settle their differences."

Referring to the called-off Iraqi-Syrian meeting at foreign ministers' level, which was expected to take place on June 13, the King said it was just postponed and could take place any time in the future, indicating that it would not necessarily be between the two foreign ministers.

In reply to another question, the King said Jordan's efforts to reconcile Syria and Iraq did not conflict with those exerted by Saudi Arabia and the Arab League-mandated mediation committee.

He praised the Saudi endeavours towards healing the Syrian-Iraqi rift and said: "We share the same objective."

Asked whether he thought the government had overreacted to last May's student unrest at Yarmouk University, the King replied: "I don't think I can discuss it here... maybe there was a lack of reaction for a long period of time... which led to (the Yarmouk events)... if responsibility is to be shared it should be done among a variety of people and elements within the university as well as outside."

He expressed hope that events similar to the Yarmouk unrest would not be repeated. "I hope that the episode of Yarmouk, said as it is, is behind us," he said.

Hamzeh opens seminar on mother, child health care services

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Saturday stressed the importance of mother and child health care within the services of the primary health care centres and he said that mothers and children form one third of the total population and are a high health risk category. Dr. Hamzeh was addressing the opening of a four-day seminar on mother and child health care services held by the ministry at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). He added that the ministry is keen to provide mother and child health care and requested the World Bank for a loan to build 25 primary health centres and 20 comprehensive health centres on which work will begin shortly.

Improving services

The director of primary health care at the Health Ministry, Dr. Saleh Qub'ain, also delivered a speech in which he said that the aim of the seminar was to improve mother and child health services within comprehensive health care.

He pointed out that Jordan's mortality rate among children below the age of five is still higher than internationally accepted rates due to the unavailability of health centres and qualified cadres.

The seminar aims to familiarise participants with a health centres project being financed by the World Bank.



KING VISITS ARMY HQ — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordan Armed Forces Saturday visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters where he was received by Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Zaid Al Rifai, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Al Shaker, Chief of Staff

Awqaf official returns from talks on financial policies

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi returned to Amman from Pakistan on Saturday after attending an international meeting on financial and economic policies in Islamic countries.

The conference, organised by the Pakistani government, was attended by 120 scholars and researchers from Arab, Islamic and foreign countries, Dr. Abbadi said. He continued that the delegates discussed a wide range of issues of concern to Islamic economies, such as development strategies, public expenditure, taxes, Zakat and monetary policies which could encourage economic and social life in Islamic

Sports camp for handicapped children ends

KARAK (Petra) — A sports camp for handicapped children in Jordan concluded at Mu'ta, near Karak, on Saturday. Nearly 50 children cared for by various government and private sector rehabilitation institutions took part in the camp.

The camp, organised by the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped, offered the children an opportunity to enjoy recreational, cultural and sports activities.

The participants also visited Mu'ta University, the tombs of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad near Mazar, the citadel at Karak, Ghor Al Safi, and the Dead Sea area.

Ministry finalises preparations for expatriates' conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government has extended invitations to a number of Arab expatriates living in North and South America to visit Jordan in the coming week. An official spokesman said Saturday that the visit would offer the expatriates an opportunity to familiarise themselves with Jordan, its development and achievements.

Meanwhile Saturday, preparations were going ahead for the start of the Second Jordanian Expatriates' Conference, which will open Monday under royal patronage. Nearly 400 delegates from Arab Gulf states, Australia, Europe and America will discuss four main working papers during their four-day deliberations at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

Dr. Mansour 'Umm, director of the employment department at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development which is organising the conference, said that preparations were going ahead as scheduled and would be completed by Sunday evening, the eve of the opening which will be at the Parliament building.

In a statement published on Friday Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai said the conference will review a report on the

achievements of the First Jordanian Expatriates' Conference held in Amman last summer and that most of the recommendations of that conference had been implemented. He said that the government has taken measures to bolster expatriates' relations with their home country and to maintain channels of communication between these expatriates and Jordan.

According to Dr. 'Umm, the delegates to the second conference will discuss requests submitted by expatriates working abroad and enquiries on political and economic issues and labour-related affairs. In addition, the delegates will familiarise themselves with areas for investment in the Kingdom and the incentives offered by the government to encourage them to invest in their country, Dr. 'Umm said.

He said that the conference will be an opportunity for the delegates to discuss their living and working conditions in the countries where they are employed as well as means of solving expatriates' problems and strengthening their ties with Jordan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian judges arrive in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of judges from Egypt arrived in Amman Saturday on an official visit to Jordan expected to last several days. The delegation members will meet with Justice Minister Riad Al Shaka' and other ministry officials to discuss the subject of a draft agreement on cooperation in judicial affairs between Jordan and Egypt. The delegation, led by Mr. Farouk Rateb, assistant to the Egyptian minister of justice, was met at the Queen Alia International Airport by the Ministry of Justice undersecretary and senior ministry officials as well as Egyptian embassy staff.

Hawari inspects road works

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Work on a four-lane highway linking Zarqa with Mafraq will be completed by the end of 1986, according to Mr. Khalaf Hawari, under secretary of the Ministry of Public Works, who Saturday inspected work on the road. He said that another road linking Zarqa-Rahab and Yarmouk University and reaching as far as the Syrian-Jordanian border will be completed by the end of the coming year. He urged the contractors to speed up work on the project and to finish it on schedule.

Ministry to attend conference on sports

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Youth will take part in an international conference on physical and sports education, scheduled to be held in Tunisia on July 24.

Wide range of titles, low prices boost sales at Indian book show

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An exhibition of interesting books from India concludes today at the University of Jordan. The organisers of the event, UBS Publishers' Distributors Ltd. (UBSPD) of New Delhi, extended the exhibition by one day because of popular demand.

On display and for sale at the exhibition is a large variety of books, ranging from Islamic and religious issues to highly technical subjects such as computer engineering, chemistry, physics and biology.

Perhaps the highlight of the exhibition is the prices of books on display in comparison with their Western counterparts. Some of the books are sold at half the price of their equivalents published in Europe and the United States and some others are priced at one-sixth of that of Western publishers.

Also, the exhibition includes reprints of certain technical books from the West. The reprints are sold at less than 20 per cent of the price of the originals.

Arabic books

A special feature of the event is that it also contains more than 600 Arabic books, ranging from topics on Islam such as Sharia, marriage and divorce laws and Islamic medicine to contemporary thoughts on the teachings of the Prophet Mohammad. An English translation and interpretation of the Holy Koran is also included. Children's workbooks and comics complete the inventory.

The exhibition, which was launched on Monday, was the third in Jordan organised by UBSPD, one of the oldest and largest publishing and distributing houses in India, with over \$30 million in annual sales. It handles more than 420 Indian and foreign publishers but the books sent out on regular basis for exhibitions and sales are of predominantly Indian origin, and by Indian authors.

P.N. Kala, who manages UBSPD exhibitions in 10 countries in the Middle East and Asia, says there is a great scope for Indian books on medicine, technology and science in the region. But, he sees an "obvious reluctance" on the part of local importers of books to take up Indian sources seriously.

"I am surprised that while we get extremely good response from the actual reading public, including students, teachers, universities and scholars, most booksellers are reluctant to launch an effort at serious marketing Indian books," he said.

"Obviously, the low prices we offer make it not so lucrative on a commercial basis for booksellers who get a higher margin of profit on Western and American books."

The situation is more of a paradox, he adds, since most Indian books on contemporary issues have much more objective views and interpretations than some of their Western counterparts.

"India is the third largest publisher of books in English after the United States and United Kingdom," he pointed out.

Public response to Indian books could be interpreted from the sale of books at this week's exhibition in Amman. Mr. Kala says he brought in 3,000 books on various subjects and topics, and on Saturday the shelves looked almost empty with less than 600 books.

"We have booked orders for a large number of books which were sold out during the six days in Amman," Mr. Kala said.

Future displays

UBSPD plans to come back to Jordan and organise two more displays — one at the University of Jordan and the other at Yarmouk University — in October this year.

The Jordan Times asked some student customers of UBSPD how they found the variety of books offered by the exhibition. "I was surprised to find that some books on civil engineering offered high-quality contents on theory as well as practice," said Marwan Hussein, an engineering student.

"I do have some books by Western authors but I found at least two books I bought here to contain much more elaborate but simplified versions of civil engineering practices."

Committees, designers work out details for interior of King Abdullah Mosque

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — From the exterior, the King Abdullah mosque in Abdali looks as if it is near completion. It will, however, be many more months yet before the first call to prayer will ring out from the well-proportioned minaret, for the blue tiled dome houses just a shell awaiting the application of "a traditionally elaborate interior. The design of the interior has already been chosen from the six schemes submitted to a competition set last October for the interior design of the mosque.

Before work can begin on the estimated JD 1 million interior, the final modifications asked for by the client — the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and by the technical committee for landscaping and interior design — are being worked out.

The technical committee, which consists of Dr. Nami Heikal, Jamal Badran, Dr. Farouk Yagmour, Dr. Abdullah Abdine and Abdul Rahman Hasbani was also the committee which judged the competition entries. They awarded the prestigious first prize and the contract for the work to an Egyptian firm, Interconsult, who entered in the name of the Amman-based Regional Engineering Office. Speaking on behalf of the committee, Dr. Nami Heikal said: "We thought this scheme to be the most balanced and its message to the people coming to pray was one they could relate to and understand."

Interconsult's concept started with the dome which the designers thought of in terms of the sky. Painted in rich blues, the dome is inscribed with a geometrical pattern that represents the golden rays of the sun shining through the brightly coloured glass of the Qamariyat windows — so called because they admit a light like that of the moon — which line the drum of the dome. The triangular geometry of the interior structures have been used for Koranic writings. This calligraphy while accentuating the form of the

structure, by being less elaborate than the highly decorated dome, forms a gentle graduation to the less decorated walls of the mosque.

Encircling the prayer space will be vertical wooden elements, naturally stained wood being much warmer and more human than for example marble.

Carpets

It is the design of the carpets that the winning team's scheme proved particularly successful for, with the use of clever patterning, they managed to hide some of the construction and design faults of the building itself. One of the main faults in the construction of the mosque was a misalignment by some nine and a half degrees when siting the building to face towards Mecca. This was compensated for to some extent by the construction of the mihrab and the minbar which, by standing free of the wall, face the right direction. Although Dr. Heikal hopes that the present mihrab and minbar, which are supposed to represent the open Koran and a pencil respectively, will be redesigned and rebuilt, the difference in the angle between them and the walls is very noticeable. Interconsult's carpet design, however, effectively reduces this discrepancy by edging the central red carpet with its geometric design that helps the people to stand in line, with a blue triangle which takes up the change in angle leaving the main red carpet whole.

Their designs for the carpets in the two smaller pentagonal conference rooms also very effectively make a slightly awkward space into a more manageable one and the same with the Royal Pavilion.

The carpets also demonstrate the scheme's strong direction. "You feel the character of the designer in all areas," said Dr. Heikal, "there is a continuity of

theme in the patterns, in the materials and colours, which we felt was good and necessary for a project of this kind."

The modifications the client and the committee have asked for include the modernisation of some elements of the decoration in particular the Royal Pavilion whose rather ornate interior needs to be simplified.

"They have also asked for the heavy central chandelier to be replaced with a Turkish type where small individual light units, termed 'qanadil' in Arabic are hung around a huge wooden circle which is itself suspended from another higher up the dome. A more major modification has to do with the acoustic problem of the mosque. Due to the huge dome, which stands some 31.2 metres from the ground, there is a strong reverberation effect — a single noise can echo around the building for a disturbing 20 seconds. This effect would make listening to the Imam almost impossible.

Acoustic problems

To counteract this acoustic problem, many solutions have been put forward — one of which would be to build a smaller functional dome inside the original, monumental one. This as yet has to be decided upon, but with the addition of thick carpets and with some of the designs on the walls and dome being either incised or in relief to scatter the sound, the problem would be alleviated to some extent.

The second prize was awarded to a Yugoslavian firm of interior designers who entered in the name of the Amman office of the Engineering Group. The jury were very impressed with this scheme which had been exceptionally well thought out and which presented an original and extremely modern interpretation of the traditional mosque decoration.

Using the colours of the Dome of the Rock, gold, blue and green, the designers had created a golden dome replete with a very pure and simple geometric design. The

simplicity of the decoration was matched by that of the mihrab which the traditional wooden monogramma decoration had been redesigned and crafted in coloured glass.

"It had a very strong concept which was totally integrated throughout the whole building," Dr. Heikal said. "But we felt that it was perhaps going too far in its modernity. It was too philosophical, too abstract and cold for ordinary people and perhaps even a little Western — it was rather like a foreigner speaking Arabic," he added.

Local architect Rabieh Misri took third prize. Although the presentation of the scheme was outstanding, the jury felt there was a lack of continuity in the design which gave the upper part of the dome a very traditional look while giving the lower part of the mosque a more modern simplicity.

External landscaping

All the schemes, however, neglected the external landscaping in which one should feel the continuity of the whole concept of the design of the building. The committees themselves are therefore putting forward some of their own ideas one of which would be to make a plaza, a pedestrian precinct from the House of Parliament across to the mosque. If this, along with the idea for making the large plot of land behind the mosque into a public garden, were carried out the whole area would become a very special place which could be enjoyed by many.

This scheme has not yet been decided upon, but whether the plaza is made or not, the outdoor spaces around the mosque will be furnished and soft elements such as plants and water fountains will be added to make the space less hard and more human.

"We don't want the mosque to be isolated," Dr. Heikal said. "It needs to be a public space where people can see exhibitions, hear a lecture, relax."

The mosque itself was designed by Czech architect Jan Chieka, who taught for several years at the University of Jordan, in conjunction with local engineers Rabi Sobeh and Hassan Nouri. Their answer to the problems of the irregular triangular site and the huge size of the mosque required (capacity up to 3,000 people) was to fully exploit the slope of the terrain of the site and to place the main conference room, which has a capacity for 700 people and facilities for the simultaneous translation of five languages, under the mosque. This meant both the conference room and the prayer hall are both directly accessible from two different levels.

In order to cope with the irregularities of the site, an octagonal layout for the prayerhall was suggested and this idea avoids the difficult corner situations which an ordinary rectangle would have created. It also gives rise to some interesting structural shapes in the interior



One of the three stairways of the King Abdullah Mosque (pictured above) leads to the main interior hall (below) — J.T. file photos

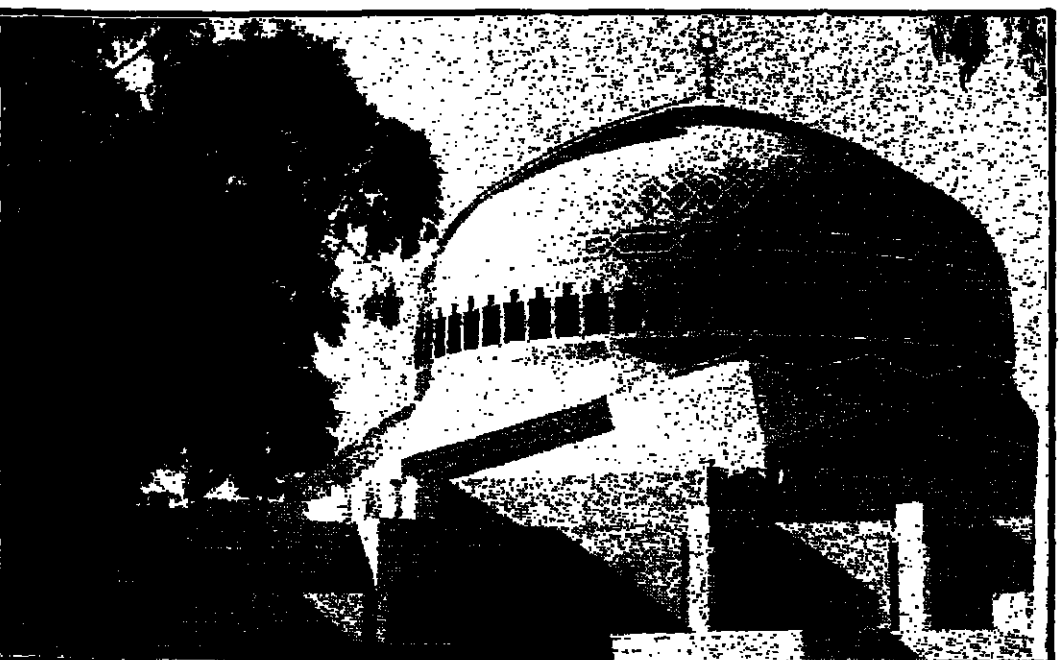


and a feeling of immense wide open space. Chieka's original dome, which was a small one on top of a complex three dimensional composition of almost "crystalline quality" was not liked by the client as they felt it was, due to the geometry involved, relatively small to the rest of the building. So the present large dome was substituted with its inherent problems of the echo and lack of ventilation, both of which were absent in the former proposal. The huge dome however is awe inspiring and will be even more so when decorated.

Two entrances

The mosque has two entrances, one from Abdali and the other from the street across from the House of Parliament. Coming from the Abdali entrance there is on the lower level a small souk, the shops of which will sell books, crafts and other goods of a relevant nature. Up from the souk the visitor passes through three square arches which are echoed by three more further up, drawing him up to the mosque itself. On the lower level there is a cafeteria which in the summer will serve soft drinks on the terrace across from which is an exhibition space.

Inside the building on this level are the conference halls, the two smaller ones, which open out onto the courtyard having a capacity of around 150 people each, the large 400 square metre library and the Royal Salon, through which the



Interior of the King Abdullah Mosque in Abdali (J.T. file photo).

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Unchecked consumption harms national economy

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

PUBLIC opinion perceives consumption from two opposite points of view. The first is that consumption is bad, because it means less savings and less investment. In fact the Arabic word "to consume" means to destroy. The Holy Koran describes over-consumers as "brothers of the devil".

The second point of view sees the positive side of consumption and looks at it as an indicator of the quality of life and the standard of living. Consumption is also a major component of the national income. Other things being equal, any decrease of consumer spending results in a corresponding reduction in the national income, unless compensated by an equal increase

in exports or decrease in foreign imports or a combination of both. Of course consumption cannot be good and bad at the same time. It all depends on the structure of the national economy, the composition of the national income and the manner of allocation of this income among various applications.

More consumption is good provided all or most consumed goods and services are made locally and not imported. It is also good if domestic savings are sufficient to finance the investments that are needed to expand the production capacity, to sustain growth and create jobs.

In the case of Jordan, the increase in consumption has the

negative aspects. First, Jordan imports two thirds of its consumption needs. This is a very high ratio which must be reduced gradually. Any increase in consumption entails a corresponding increase in imports, causing further deterioration in the balance of trade and current account.

Second, the ratio of consumption to gross domestic product (GDP) is almost 111 per cent; its ratio to gross national product (GNP) is close to 95 per cent. Both are very high ratios and must be dealt with through a faster growth of production at the expense of growth in consumption.

The seemingly unreasonable

high rate of consumption to GDP (over 100 per cent) had been due to large remittances of expatriates to their families. These remittances had not been included in the GDP but 80 per cent of them had gone to finance consumption and imports.

The high ratio of consumption to GNP, which includes the net

remittances, was due to external aid received by the central government, which is used to finance public expenditure on both consumption and investment.

In other words the substantial remittances of the Jordanian expatriates explain the excess of

private consumption, whereas Arab and foreign financial support explains the intensity of the public consumption.

The new 5-years Economic and Social Development Plan (1986-1990) has found itself facing both the good and bad perceptions of consumption. It has tried successfully to strike the right balance.

In recognition of the fact that consumption is important to maintain and improve the standard of living of the people, the plan has allowed for consumption to grow at 4 per cent a year, during the coming five years, with private consumption growing at 4.2 per cent. This is slightly higher than the population

growth of 3.7 per cent while the public sector consumption will grow at only 3.2 per cent per annum.

On the other hand, the plan has acknowledged that excessive consumption is harmful to the long term wellbeing of the national economy. Accordingly, one of the main objectives of the plan is to bring consumption in line with both GDP and GNP.

If these objectives are achieved, the ratio of consumption will decline from 111 per cent of GDP and 95 per cent of GNP in 1985 to 99 per cent of GDP and 87 per cent of GNP respectively by 1990. The aim being an economic growth rate higher than the growth rate of consumption.

Example in King's words

IN HIS press conference yesterday, His Majesty the King went as far as any statesman could in explaining and analysing his country's positions on the various issues and challenges facing it. The King's message, however, came loud and clear. The situation in which Jordan finds itself today may not be the ideal for us, but it is one that this country — government and people — is living with the best way we can, always working and striving to correct the wrong and consolidate our achievements.

On the economic front, Jordan is no better or worse off than most other countries in the region, His Majesty said yesterday. But we are doing everything possible to achieve economic stability and growth. And this year is in fact better than last year was.

On the Palestinian issue, Jordan remains where it has always stood. Top priority goes to liberating the land and to extending every possible support to the people under occupation. The Palestinians are free to choose their leaders and the institutions that represent them, but that would in no way absolve Jordan of its responsibilities towards the just cause and rights of the Palestinian people.

But for this cause to triumph, Jordan knows that the Arabs have to close their ranks and work hand in hand, whether here in this area or on the international level. Hence the King's sincere and courageous efforts at bringing a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq, in preparation for an Arab summit that could tackle the difficult and complex problems facing all of us in the Arab World.

The King, in his press conference, talked at length about these issues and others, and gave a clear and far-sighted analysis of the situation in the Middle East as a whole. His words, in this sea of darkness around us, were most honest and enlightening. They deserve to be studied and analysed not only by the international and Arab journalists who met with His Majesty yesterday, but by all those students of history who take an interest in this area, its peoples and problems.

Syria heads for economic boost with new oilfield

By William MacLean
 Reuters

DAMASCUS — Syria is heading for a much-needed economic boost from a new oilfield and a steady expansion of irrigation, diplomatic analysts say.

They expect the Al Thayyem oilfield in the rugged north-east of Syria to bring in oil worth some \$220 million a year when it starts production around September 1.

It is Syria's first commercial find of light crude and analysts think more oil will be discovered in the area.

"There's no reason to expect a Saudi oilfield... but given Syria's need for foreign exchange, any dollar saved from spending on imports is like gold dust," one said.

Syria, in the economic doldrums for much of the decade, has also invested heavily in expanding irrigation for cotton and grain-growing, the analysts said. But its economic woes will not go away overnight.

Black spots cited by analysts include a fall in Arab aid, declining remittances from Syrians abroad, pervasive bureaucracy and lack of incentives for the entrepreneurial class.

The result has been a dearth of foreign exchange, a slide in the Syrian pound and persistent black market trading.

Aid from Arab states has fallen well below the annual \$1.8 billion pledged at an Arab summit in Baghdad in 1978.

At the same time, remittances estimated at up to \$2 billion a year from Syrians overseas have nosedived.

Analysts said the problem was likely to persist with plunging oil prices sapping the ability of Gulf oil states to give aid and draining job opportunities for foreign workers.

Oil from Al Thayyem is expected to flow at 50,000 barrels per day, representing a 30 per cent increase in Syria's output.

Up to now, Syria relied on sales of heavy crude to provide the country of 10 million with half its export earnings.

The heavy crude exports brought in up to \$1 billion official trade deficit last year.

The government is also taking firm measures to shore up its foreign exchange reserves.

The International Monetary Fund said reserves fell from \$565 million in 1979 to \$43 million at the end of 1983. Current reserves were estimated by an analyst as "varying between \$50 million and \$200 million at any one time."

Analysts said \$200 million would cover just one month's registered imports.

The government has cracked down on black market traders and

made changes to its complex exchange rate system.

Transactions by embassies and inter-government institutions were moved from the official rate of 3.9 Syrian pounds to the dollar to the tourist rates of 9.75 pounds.

However Syria is still operating a commercial rate of 5.4, a 10.6 rate for airline tickets and 11.25 for Syrians paying for foreign services such as medical treatment abroad.

One diplomat said private firms importing under barter arrangements could now use what was called the "rate in neighbouring countries — that is, the unofficial rate of 18."

The government's drive to save money is also likely to be reflected in a belt-tightening 1986 budget due to be approved and published later this month, the analysts said.

Spending was expected to stay around the 1985 level of 43 billion pounds (\$11 billion at the old official rate).

With inflation at well over 12 per cent, it would be a fall in spending in real terms for at least the second year running.

But analysts said trends were difficult to read because detailed statistics were rarely made public.

Syria this month has been renegotiating its trade pact with Iran, which provides oil on free and concessional terms unofficially estimated to be worth around \$250 million.

But oil shipments have been erratic and difficulties have arisen over payment of Syrian debts believed to be more than \$1.5 billion, analysts said.

A month after the accord was signed in 1982 Syria closed an oil pipeline linking Iraq to the Mediterranean in a move seen as part of a strategic alliance against Iran's Gulf war foe.

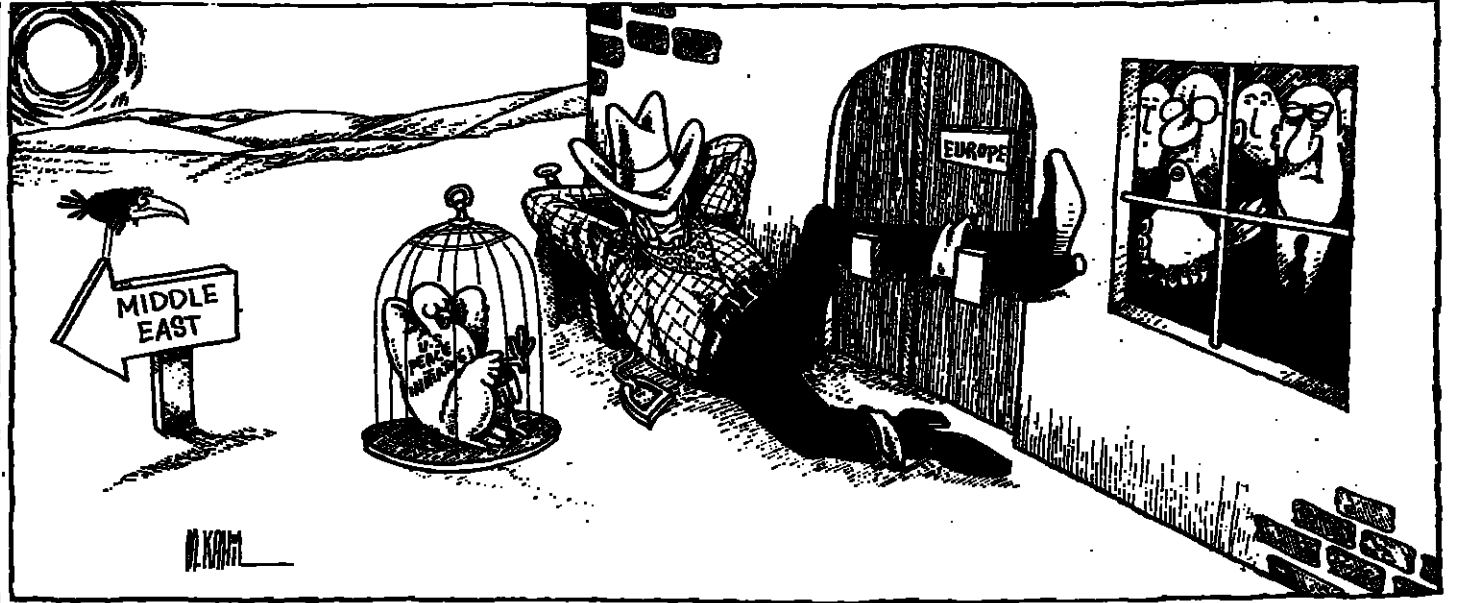
Jordan arranged tentative reconciliation moves between Syria and Iraq last month. But they were halted and Iran was reported to have sent fresh oil shipments to Syria.

While credits East Europe have fallen off, analysts said a large long-term credit was likely from the Soviet Union, Syria's sole arms supplier.

Much Soviet help goes on improving irrigation to boost a Syrian drive to return to self-sufficiency in food.

"Investment in agriculture, industry and oil... shows clear promise," said Prime Minister Abdel Rauf Al Qasbi last month when the Baath Dam built with Soviet aid on the Euphrates was opened.

Moscow is also involved in building the Al Khabur River dam which will water more than 150,000 hectares and boost the area of irrigated land in Syria almost a third.



Thatcher faces pressure on sanctions against Pretoria

By Chris Peterson
 Reuters

LONDON — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, still adamant that sanctions will not help end apartheid in South Africa, faces increased pressure to change her mind and even a close political aide has joined her critics.

As Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe rounded off the first part of a peace-seeking mission to southern Africa, former cabinet minister Leon Brittan, still one of Thatcher's closest political allies, came out in favour of economic pressure on Pretoria.

Thatcher's insistence that economic sanctions would only harm those people they were supposed to help has also triggered a reaction from Ghana and Nigeria, which announced a boycott of the Commonwealth Games due to start later this month in Edinburgh. African diplomats say more countries are expected to follow suit.

Britain looks likely to be given a rough ride at the mini-summit of seven Commonwealth nations in London next month, when the subject of South Africa will be discussed, in particular a report by a group of eminent Commonwealth personalities which concluded that sanctions were the only option left.

Howe's peace-seeking efforts in southern Africa, on behalf of the European Community, have drawn strong criticism from many quarters. Opposition politicians here have said it is a waste of time, because African nationalist leaders, including Bishop Desmond Tutu as well as the banned African National Congress (ANC), have refused to meet him.

Diplomatic sources said some African leaders were becoming increasingly angered by what they saw as delaying tactics by Thatcher in the face of the inevitable application of some

form of economic sanctions. Britain, who resigned as secretary of trade and industry in January, attacked her for failing to back Howe's mission with a threat of some form of sanctions.

He told a political meeting last Thursday night that Howe's mission would be utterly hopeless unless backed up by the threat of effective measures against Pretoria.

Britain, the first of Thatcher's backers to break ranks over the sanctions issue, was at pains on Friday to explain that he was not calling for full and punitive sanctions.

Thatcher has been fighting the imposition of sanctions ever since last October's Commonwealth summit in Nassau.

Although many Commonwealth leaders were in

favour of sanctions, the meeting decided, partly at her instigation, to dispatch a seven-member fact-finding team to the area which would try to promote dialogue between black and white.

The so-called eminent persons' group finally presented its report last month, having failed to get either side to the conference table.

Eagler British officials had been saying the government was pinning its hopes on the Commonwealth mediators, describing them as "the only show in town."

But the group concluded that Pretoria was not serious about opening negotiations, and economic pressure was the only option left to the West if a major bloodbath were to be avoided.

Thatcher's critics have accused

her of "trampling over" the Commonwealth group's efforts by sending Howe, with EC backing, on his mission to South Africa.

Diplomats said they now felt there was little hope of negotiated settlement without some form of economic pressure, a fact that Thatcher would have to accept at the Commonwealth meeting in London on August 3.

There are other pressures on Thatcher within the Commonwealth. Some countries, notably Zambia, have threatened to pull out if Britain does not agree to economic action.

Kaunda treated Howe to a public lecture when the foreign secretary visited Lusaka last week, telling him in front of reporters that Thatcher's attitude was "not very British."

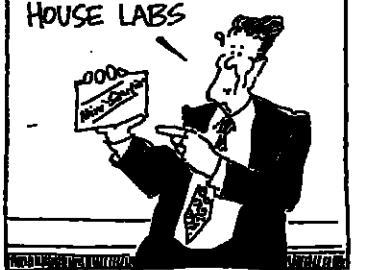
RONALD REAGAN INTRODUCES "Mini-Sanctions"



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SO WHEN OTHER PEOPLES' PRINCIPLES GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR POLITICS, REACH FOR -



After 15 years in mountains, Philippine rebel leader won't quit

By Steve Le Vine
 The Associated Press

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Communist leader Concha Araneta, who has fought 15 years in Panay island's rugged mountains, received a letter from home last week. It asked, "are you staying up there forever?"

Ms. Araneta, who grew up in a close, middle-class family of 12 in Iloilo city, 460 kilometres southeast of Manila, read the letter from her sister in a spartan bamboo house, surrounded by the armed men who accompany her on continual treks through the mountains.

"Not forever," she said, laughing after reading her sister's question aloud. But she said she won't budge until the kind of revolution she has in mind takes place.

Two other island rebel leaders, going by "Jun" and "Nestor," say they, too, have no intention of putting down their weapons after

15 years each fighting in the mountains.

They were glad when a civilian-backed military revolt ousted Ferdinand E. Marcos as president in February. But they say that was not all they have spent nearly half their lives fighting for.

"My family always asks why don't I come down and live a normal life, more peaceful," said Ms. Araneta, in the mountain safehouse several hours' hike from Iloilo.

"I've gotten used to it. And it's not just me. There are thousands of comrades."

Their positions frustrate President Corason Aquino, who came to power in popular uprising and wants a political solution to the 17-year insurgency rather than relying on the military approach Marcos used.

Mrs. Aquino thought most rebels would stop fighting once Marcos was gone, but she finds herself facing a seemingly cohesive insurgency of 16,500 armed guerrillas.

With cease-fire talks set to begin any time, the rebels are demanding far-reaching economic and political changes that conflict with many beliefs of the moderates who helped put Mrs. Aquino in power.

There is mistrust on the sides.

The ultimate, irreversible objective of these people is power," Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile told a women's group lately. "And when they get that power, none of you who are here today will be able to survive it. All of us will be kaput."

But, former Communist Party leader Jose Maria Sison sees the conflict differently. He said in a recent interview, "the reactionary classes want a temporary cease-fire to consolidate their forces in the belief that the ever worsening economic and political problems will blow over."

In a breakfast forum last week, Sison said he sees the cease-fire talks as a chance for the

Communists to show Filipinos their programme of government.

"The talks will be more important than the cease-fire," Sison asserted. Meanwhile, he said, both sides will consolidate their forces.

Ms. Araneta, who goes by "Maria," clearly believes the Communists, with endurance and patience built from hard, mountain lives, can weather any difficulty and emerge victorious.

"The hard core will expand," she replied when asked about a stated government goal of satisfying most rebels while not expecting ideologically committed ones to quit fighting.

But, she insisted, "it's not like that."

Ms. Araneta moves to bamboo huts on different mountains every few days, living on dried fish, rice and boiled greens. There is no electricity or any other luxury.

Her three children live with relatives elsewhere because of danger in the mountains. She has

not seen some of her 10 brothers and sisters in years and spends a good deal of time away from her husband, who also is a rebel.

On the several hours' trek to the safe house, several men on a winding path proudly discussed Communist military successes in the mountains. They mentioned seizure of weapons and killings of soldiers and paramilitary civilian home defence force troops.

Ms. Araneta, who looks much younger than her 35 years, has been captured twice. The second time, in 1979, she was arrested after a difficult childbirth at a hospital on adjacent Negros island. She spent 15 months in prison before she and seven other inmates broke out.

She traces her move underground to 1970, when as a 20-year-old student at the University of the Philippines in Manila she read Sison's "Struggle for National Democracy," the Communists' ideological underpinning.

Ms. Araneta joined fierce student activism in 1970 at the University of the Philippines, which protesters took brief control of before storming the gates of Malacanang Palace. In April 1971, eight opposition senatorial candidates were injured at a Manila political gathering in the "Plaza Miranda" explosion.

Marcos blamed the Communists and suspended the right of habeas corpus. Ms. Araneta went underground.

Ms. Araneta and the two other top Panay rebel leaders say they are hopeful about negotiations with the government. But their demands, which they call a "principled settlement," make it clear a resolution will not be easy.

The demands include massive redistribution of land to farmers, withdrawal of soldiers from areas where guerrillas are strong, removal of U.S. military bases and economic influence, and some form of coalition government.

Until the demands are met, they see no peace.

APL 100 13p

Paulownia: China's wonder tree

By Chin Salk Yoon and Gerald Toomey

In the summer of 1985, Zhu Zhao-hua, a forest ecologist with the Chinese Academy of Forestry and an expert on Paulownia trees, became the first recipient of the "Man of the Trees Award," given by the Richard St. Barbe Baker Foundation, based in Saskatchewan, Canada. The award honours outstanding contributions to forest conservation, tree planting, and public education in forestry.

WITH a population of more than one billion, China is the most populous nation on earth. It has enormous requirements for food, firewood, and construction material, yet on average the land available to a farmer is only 0.1 ha. The Chinese consider every field and terrace of productive land a precious resource to be diligently safeguarded and meticulously managed.

In the past decade, a large-scale agro-forestry programme aimed at increasing the productivity of farmland and the income of peasants — without jeopardising the environment — has literally taken root across China. The centre of attention in this major "social forestry" project is a remarkable indigenous tree known as Paulownia. To date, almost 1.3 million hectares of China's farmland have been intercropped with this fast-growing broad-leaved tree, providing peasants with extra firewood, timber, and simultaneously improving crop yields.

A principal actor in this transformation of the Chinese countryside is 48-year-old Zhu Zhao-hua, a forest ecologist and a senior scientist at the Research Institute of Forestry of the Chinese Academy of Forestry, in Peking. For more than a decade he and his colleagues, with the cooperation of Chinese farmers and local forestry officials, have been conducting research on many aspects of Paulownia: its natural distribution throughout China, characteristics and rate of growth, effects on microclimates and crop yields, propagation techniques, and susceptibility to insects and disease. A critical part of the research has been the selection, breeding, and testing of "plus" trees, strains with highly desirable characteristics. The results of Zhu's Paulownia research are now being applied throughout China.

Request from Argentina

Although Paulownia trees have been grown in China for thousands of years, the story of their recent "rediscovery" begins not in China, but in South America. "In 1972, an accidental opportunity aroused my interest in Paulownia took almost all my energies."

The occasion was the attendance by China's minister of forestry, Liang Chan Wu, at a world forestry congress in Argentina. He was asked by some Argentinians to supply them with the seeds of two little-known species of Paulownia, *P. elongata* and *P. glabrata*. On his return to China, the minister asked Zhu to collect the seeds for him. "At that time, I didn't know much about

Paulownia," Zhu says, "so I asked some very famous experts where the two species were distributed (located) in China. They couldn't answer my question."

Luckily, says Zhu, he found a reference to the two species in an old U.S. journal and was able to collect seeds. "When I went to Shandong and Henan provinces, I found that Paulownia trees grow fast, very fast, and that it can be intercropped with many crops such as wheat, corn, and cotton. Intercropping did not reduce crop yields and in some cases they even increased. I was surprised and encouraged."

The minister of forestry encouraged Zhu to publish his findings and follow up on his investigations. But the Cultural Revolution made research difficult. "Every project had been stopped and many of our colleagues had become labourers living in the countryside with the farmers."

Despite the initial difficulties, Zhu made headway on his research. He began by looking for historical references to Paulownia and was fortunate to locate a number of old manuscripts on the subject, some dating back some 2300 years. "I also found a monograph, published in 1049, that was very scientific and useful," says Zhu.

Zhu ended up spending a year talking to many local people familiar with the tree and recording their accounts. The next few years he devoted to investigating the geographical distribution of Paulownia species, the climatic and soil conditions in

which they grow, and how they were being intercropped. He also began planning a programme to select superior trees for use in a country-wide Paulownia development scheme.

"I travelled alone all over China with a big, heavy bag full of plant samples," he recalls. "I visited 19 provinces. Some sites were in mountainous areas that were very difficult to reach." In the course of this work, he also discovered and named three new species of Paulownia.

Zhu published extensively on Paulownia and in 1974 collaborated with Wu Chung Lung, director of the Forestry Society of China, to form a national Paulownia research group.

Six experimental stations

In 1979, the Chinese Academy of Forestry obtained financial support for a major Paulownia research project. Zhu and his colleagues established six experimental stations — one for each of China's major climatic zones. These were exciting times for the researchers. The stations furnished them with the experimental base needed to breed and select, over the next few years, four high-quality clones from which two million root cuttings have been propagated for use by Chinese farmers.

Canadian International Development and Research Centre (IDRC) began its support for Zhu's work in 1983. This has enabled members of the research team to obtain specialised training and to continue selecting species suitable for mass replication. About 850 "plus" trees from across China have been selected, grown, and tested for desirable characteristics such as superior height and diameter. The IDRC-supported work also included experiments on the

intercropping of different species of Paulownia with food crops, and investigations of the effects of trees on the microclimate.

During the on-station research, Zhu and his colleagues gained expertise in propagating Paulownia trees. "For growing seedlings, we developed the 'high-ridge' method of culture," he says. This raises the ground temperature in the colder regions so that the root cuttings can begin to grow earlier in the spring. "The other method we use involves covering the ground with plastic sheets. In addition to raising the ground temperature, the plastic also helps control evaporation. We started experimenting with this method in 1983 with only 2 ha. By last year we had expanded to a total of 400 ha of nursery."

The wonder tree

One day in the winter of 1983, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping made a special visit to the Paulownia Forestry Farm at Cheng Guan Commune in Shantung Province. "It was stated in the newspapers that Paulownia was a treasure," he said. "Today, I have alighted here to have a look at it."

Why is the Paulownia tree of such great interest to China's political leaders and forestry experts alike? Fundamentally, they see it as a wonder tree, a way to improve crop and wood yields, a new source of peasant wealth. Although the tree is not flood resistant and is susceptible to attack by insects and a microplasm disease known as Witches' Broom, its ecologically beneficial effects and ability to grow in most of China's climatic regions make it an attractive natural resource to nurture.

One of the most impressive traits of Paulownia is its growth rate. A 15-cm-long root cutting planted in the spring can reach 6 m



Zhu Zhao-hua

by the end of the growing season, with average growth of about 2 m per year. And it is not uncommon for a 5-year-old tree to reach 17 m in height and have a trunk diameter of 30 cm, says Zhu.

Paulownia has a number of important uses. A 10-year-old tree can annually produce 30 kg of dry leaves and 400 kg of young branches which, being rich in protein, carbohydrates, and minerals, make good animal fodder. In view of China's serious shortage of firewood, the branches of the Paulownia are also an increasingly important cooking fuel.

China also has an inadequate supply of timber. Zhu estimates that if each person planted five Paulownia trees, local timber needs could be met. However, the naturally short stems of most of the nine species do not make Paulownia ideal for timber. To overcome this problem, Zhu and his team have developed methods for improving tree shape by removing certain buds on saplings and encouraging the growth of others.

Paulownia versus wind

Apart from timber, fuel, and fodder, a major benefit of Paulownia trees is their ability, when grown with crops such as wheat, to improve yields and soil fertility. The tree's deep roots help to condition the soil and retain its moisture, while dead leaves act as a fertiliser. The trunks and large crowns of the trees provide shade, protect the soil from wind erosion, and shelter crops against desiccating winds.

In the Yellow River Basin, where wheat accounts for 40 per cent of all crop farming, the hot dry winds coincide with the May harvest and can reduce the yield by up to 40 per cent. Intercropping with Paulownia has proven effective in eliminating

these losses. Experiments have shown that the relative humidity of the air above fields intercropped with Paulownia is 7 to 12 per cent greater than in open fields. This is due to evapotranspiration. The air temperature is 1 or 2 degrees Celsius lower, and windspeed is cut by 30 to 50 per cent, depending on the spacing of the trees. These microclimatic differences make for better growing conditions.

Paulownia can also be intercropped with maize, millet, a variety of vegetables, and even cotton, although in this last case, the yield increases only if the weather is dry.

Yield depends on spacing

The spacing of the Paulownia trees is a major determinant of crop yields. For example, if trees are grown 5 m apart, with 10 m between each row, then the yield of wheat is the same as for open-field cultivation. When the distance between the rows of trees is increased to between 20 and 40 m, however, the crop yield goes up 7 to 10 per cent.

In the 1970s, the land intercropped with Paulownia in China totalled only 20,000 hectares. Today it is almost 1.3 million hectares and the dissemination of this forestry technology is proceeding on a large scale through propagation and training programmes.

As the son of a peasant forest ranger, Zhu Zhao-hua spent his childhood in the forests of Chekiang Province surrounded by bamboo and fir. The greening of China is, for him, a dream come true. His winning of the international "Man of the Trees Award" recognises the power of such human endeavour — IDRC reports.

JTV channel 2 preview

Sunday — July 13, 1986

8:30 Charlie & Company: A quarrel breaks out between a husband and his wife, the wife kicks him out of the house. So, will he return home...?

9:10 Documentary: "The World Challenge": Creative Explosion: Japan has no natural resources — no oil, no minerals. Twenty-five years ago, international experts rated Japan a loss, an underdeveloped country. Now she is second only to the U.S. as an economic power.

In every area, Japan has taken the lead, going beyond reproduction to innovation: watches, TVs, cameras, ships, radios, computers, cars, lasers.

10:20 Dallas

Monday — July 14, 1986

8:30 Growing Pains, "Standardised Test": Jason (Alan Thicke) and Maggie (Joanna Kerns) are faced with a case of sibling rivalry between Carol (Tracey Gold) and Mike (Kirk Cameron), who's upset over his sister's highest scholastic achievements.

9:10 Moonlighting: David's brother found a sum of \$100,000 in his old car, so he is chased by the gang.

10:20 Crown Court.

Tuesday — July 15, 1986

8:30 Music Box

9:30 Alfred Hitchcock
10:20 Equaliser: A woman journalist finds out that her next door neighbour is a criminal, she asks for McCall's help.

Wednesday — July 16, 1986

8:30 Three's Company, "The Impossible Dream": To help give Jack's business a boost, Larry has a friend who would play the guitar for free.

9:10 Believe It or Not: The strange and sinister real-life of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde; bizarre pets, deer-jumping roundups from helicopters in New Zealand; the embarrassing scientific fraud of "the missing link" known as Pitdown Man; deadly snakes as a most peculiar meal for fakirs; and some of the world's most unusual sports are presented.

10:20 Sword of Honour

Thursday — July 17, 1986

8:30 Amanda
9:10 Lime Street
10:20 Feature Film, "Threshold," starring: John Marley

Friday — July 18, 1986

8:30 Open All Hours: The old shop-keeper asked for a house-keeper, many elderly women apply for the job, but Arkwright's girlfriend starts to get jealous.

9:10 Finder of Lost Loves: An old man asks the team to find an old friend whom he was supposed to marry 40 years ago.
10:20 Play of the Week: "The death of a Heart": A lonely adolescent comes to stay with her sophisticated relations in London and embarks on a disastrous love affair with an attractive young philanderer.

Pasternak dacha symbolises cause of Soviet writers

By Mary Ellen Bortin

Reuter

MOSCOW — Leading Soviet writers seeking liberalisation in the arts have chosen an unlikely cause for their latest plot — the uninhabited country house where Boris Pasternak composed his novel "Doctor Zhivago."

The brown, ramshackle bachelors' colony of Peredelkino, outside Moscow, has become the symbol of a campaign led by the poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko, who has more than once had trouble for his controversial stances.

At the congress of the writers' union last week Yevtushenko presented a letter signed by 40 delegates calling for the dacha to be made into a museum in memory of Pasternak, who died in 1960.

Speaking to reporters this week, Yevtushenko said the congress had approved the plan and this would guarantee its realisation.

But other writers who attended the congress told a different story, saying the outcome of a long battle over the late writer's country home was still far from certain.

They said delegates had been caught off guard during a vote on the dacha, which has been earmarked by officials to become a museum honouring the many Soviet writers who have lived at Peredelkino, and not just Pasternak.

The history of what has become an emotional tug-of-war over the Pasternak home dates back several decades to the founding of the writers' colony at the suggestion of the author Maxim Gorky, who said writers needed a place to write.

Authorities had about 30 dachas built at the village of Peredelkino, south west of Moscow. Selected writers were granted use of the homes on condition that the dachas be turned over to the writers' union two years after the death of the occupant.

Like other writers' heirs in Peredelkino, Pasternak's family resisted and were finally evicted in 1984 after a two-year legal battle in which the writers' union sought to reclaim the house for use by a living writer.

Since then authorities have restored the large wooden home, from which three first marking Pasternak's grave can be seen on a nearby hill. But the dacha has stood empty despite attempts by the writers' union to assign new occupants.

"I was offered the house,"

Georgy Aitmatov, a leading Soviet novelist, told journalists this week. "I thought about it, but I would rather keep this house as a museum."

Writers who attended last week's congress say opinion is split between those favouring a Pasternak museum and others who agree with the latest official plan to make the home a common monument to all writers who have lived in the colony.

But the argument has acquired a symbolic dimension for liberals among the literary establishment, who hope Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's drive for openness in all spheres of life may lead to an easing of control over the arts.

Choosing the Pasternak home as the centre of their campaign, they are making a sharp statement about the fate of Soviet writers who have faced censorship, or in the worst cases exile or even death, for the power of their word.

Although selected works by Pasternak were recently issued for the first time here, his work best known in the West, "Doctor Zhivago," has never been published in the Soviet Union.

The novel, an epic saga of Russian life in the years around the 1917 revolution, was fiercely denounced as anti-Bolshevik when it appeared abroad in 1957.

Pasternak was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature the following year but rejected it under intense pressure, fearing he could be forced to emigrate.

But recent signs of posthumous recognition for major Soviet writers — including the poets Nikolai Gumilyov, shot as a counter-revolutionary in 1921, and Osip Mandelstam, who died in custody under Stalin — have spurred the Pasternak cause.

"Today is a turning point in time," Yevtushenko told the writers' congress, "A time of hopes and restoration of justice." He said it would shame writers if a Pasternak museum were not ready by the 100th anniversary of his birth in 1909.

Andrei Voznesensky, like Yevtushenko one of the Soviet Union's "angry young poets" of the 1950s and a leading figure on the contemporary literary scene, called at the congress for the full publication of Pasternak's collected works.

Another senior figure in the writers' union said the state publishing agency was reviewing whether to print "Doctor Zhivago" after the strong support voiced for Pasternak at the congress.

Dennis the Menace celebrates 35th anniversary

By Peter Elsworth

Reuter

NEW YORK — Dennis the Menace, the mischievous five-year-old who gets in and out of trouble every day on comic pages round the world, is celebrating his 35th anniversary this year.

Dennis, who has appeared over 12,850 times in more than 1,200 newspapers read by more than 100 million fans, got his start back in 1951.

Dennis the Menace is read in 45 countries and translated into 14 different languages.

In France, he is "Dennis le petit peste," in Spain "Daniel el Travieso," and in Holland "Henkie het huigevaar," meaning, roughly, "Hank the house terror."

"Dennis is like all of us," said Hank Ketcham, Dennis' creator, adding, "He gets into trouble now and then, but he's a good kid at heart."

Ketcham based the character on his own son Dennis, who was five at the time, and a remark by his first wife, Alice, who said to him once after Dennis had been up to no good: "Henry, your son is a menace."

"I always wanted to entertain people, make them laugh," Ketcham told Reuters, adding that he had been drawing since he was six.

While his family was the model for the cartoon family — the parents are cartoon portraits of himself and his wife at the time — Mr. Wilson, their grumpy neighbour, was not modelled on anyone in particular.

But Ketcham added that the older he gets, the more he feels like Mr. Wilson.

Ketcham said his job was to make people smile, adding that he estimates he has about 10 seconds to get his joke across.



"Boy! How many times have you told me not to play ball in the house? Huh, Mom?"

"No one gives me more than 10 seconds," he said, adding, "If they need more, I've lost them."

The character has starred in over 50 books as a series of comic books. He has also been the subject of a television series which ran from 1959-63, and inspired a large number of products from lunch boxes to greeting cards.

Ketcham, 65, grew up in Seattle. After a year at university he went to Hollywood to seek his fortune.

"I wanted to go where the action was — animated cartoons," he said.

He later spent two and a half years with Walt Disney

productions, working on such classics as Pinocchio, Fantasia and Donald Duck.

During World War II, he worked for the U.S. navy in Washington designing posters to sell war bonds.

After the war he set up a studio in New York to work as a freelance cartoonist and in 1951, published the first Dennis the Menace cartoon. He hasn't looked back.

He began working with assistants shortly after the strip began and is currently helped at his Pebble Beach, California, studio by two other artists.



West German President Richard von Weizsäcker (right) and Gunter Grass, one of Germany's best-known writers at the opening of the 49th

49th PEN congress in Hamburg

By Hugo Fritz

HAMBURG (DaD) — Poets, playwrights, essayists and novelists from 62 PEN centres demonstrated unity and the desire for harmony and stressed the connecting link forged by literature over and above East-West and North-South differences that were still very much in evidence at the 49th international PEN congress held in Hamburg at the end of June. The emphasis was on dialogue spanning systems. The conference theme was Current Affairs in the Mirror of Contemporary Literature.

Current affairs were bound to be raised. At the opening session young people unfurled a banner calling for closure of all nuclear power stations. The heightening of racial conflict in South Africa was also constantly mentioned. There was keen debate on the ever-present threat to freedom of

the written word in many countries. The PEN writers in prison committee named 400 writers imprisoned or otherwise prevented from working freely.

W. German President Richard von Weizsäcker referred in his opening address to tension between politics and literature. "Literature," he said, "has the freedom and the legitimate right to be uncompromising. In politics to be uncompromising can border on violence. A state will never attain the perfection of a major work of fiction."

Writer Gunter Grass agreed with his sentiment. Probably the best-known contemporary German writer, he called in his opening address for literature geared to current social affairs. "The writer as a contemporary in the sense I mean will always be at loggerheads with the Zeitgeist," he said. Yet the writer must be and remain a contemporary and a counter-authority to politics,

someone who writes for his own time and not merely for posterity.

Reactions can differ widely from one part of the world to another, as was all too readily apparent in Hamburg. There is a world of difference between an author in the industrialised West referring in artistic cultural criticism to the global dangers faced by our day and age and, say, an African writer fighting in direct and maybe agitational terms for cultural and national identity.

At the end of the five-day congress Ingerborg Drewitz from Berlin (West) felt that "experiencing how unsimultaneous the simultaneous is on planet Earth, experiencing resignation, anxiety and involvement in the erosion of civilisation here and a sense of taking arms against centuries of having been forgotten there: that has been the major experience of the past few days."

Heart failure comes at certain times

Able-bodied men run the greatest risk of suffering lethal heart failures (cardiac arrest) on Saturdays or the beginning of the week. This was revealed by an analysis on the incidence of terminal cardiac arrests according to the days of the week. The study was published by Prof. Mathias C. Agermeyer, Hamburg-Eppendorf University Hospital, and Walter Messing, Municipal Mental Hospital, Hannover-Langenhagen, in Psychological Medicine.

The two experts assume that the psychological stress linked with looking forward to a free weekend

and the subsequent readjustment to the daily routine affects the functioning of an already damaged heart. Statistically, however, this pattern applies much more to men between high school and retirement age than to women of the same ages.

Moreover the same two peak periods around the weekend have been established by other researchers in regard to heart attacks. This could well be a tip for psychosomatic medicine to divert its attention from major blows of fate to minor, everyday worries — German Research Service, Bonn.

Piquet overshadows Mansell, retains pole

BRANDS HATCH, England (R) — Britain's Nigel Mansell, man of the moment in Formula One motor racing, was forced to remain in the shadow of his Williams teammate, Nelson Piquet of Brazil, in Saturday's final practice for today's British Grand Prix.

Piquet, fastest in Friday's opening session, fulfilled his promise that there was more to come by clocking the best lap of one minute 06.961 seconds on the hilly 4.2 kilometre circuit.

It was an improvement of 0.729 seconds by twice world champion Piquet, who badly needs a race win to close the gap on the breakaway trio at the head of the standings — the threesome which includes Mansell, triumphant in three of his last four outings.

"I think I'm a little bit behind the leaders in the championship," said Piquet. "I have to wake up now."

The Brazilian most certainly does have to pull his act together Sunday. He enters the race fourth in the table, 16 points behind overall leader and reigning champion Alain Prost of France, 15 adrift of teammate Mansell and 13 down on compatriot Ayrton Senna.

Piquet has tasted success only once this year, winning the season-opening Brazilian Grand Prix in March.

Since then Mansell has shown the way for the Williams team and he has every intention of a repeat success on the circuit where he made his Formula One breakthrough late last year.

Mansell improved from third position on the grid to second — the outside of the front row — with 1:07.399. He set that target just five minutes into the one hour session.

Piquet promptly regained control with 1:07.063 then improved to 1:06.961 (226.170 kph) to book his second pole position of the season.

It was the fastest lap ever recorded at Brands Hatch, beating the previous best 1:07.169 clocked by Senna and his Lotus in practice for the European Grand Prix last October. That race was Mansell's first victory.

Senna, with five pole positions behind him in the eight races decided to date, starts from third place on the grid. He had a clear track ahead of him for his quick lap but managed only 1:07.524. He was fourth best Friday.

Austrian Gerhard Berger, who sandwiched his Benetton between Piquet and Mansell in the opening run, was beset by an engine misfire and dropped to fourth. Prost remained sixth behind McLaren teammate Keke Rosberg of Finland.

claimed it set him back more than 30 seconds.

Hinault's win takes him to third overall, two minutes 10 seconds behind Denmark's Jorgen Pedersen who kept his overall lead.

Pedersen, a former national time trial champion, produced the sixth fastest time of the 191 riders.

Ireland's Stephen Roche shot into second overall, just five seconds clear of Hinault.

His American teammate Greg Lemond was second after a puncture in the last seven kilometres.

Lemond, rated as the best English-speaking chance for overall victory, had to wait as helpers took a new bike from the roof rack of the car. He later

Hinault captures 9th stage of Tour de France

NANTES, France (R) — Frenchman Bernard Hinault stepped up his bid for a record sixth victory in the Tour de France Saturday.

He covered the 61.5-kilometre time trial circuit in one hour 18 minutes 46 seconds to win the ninth stage by 44 seconds.

claimed it set him back more than 30 seconds.

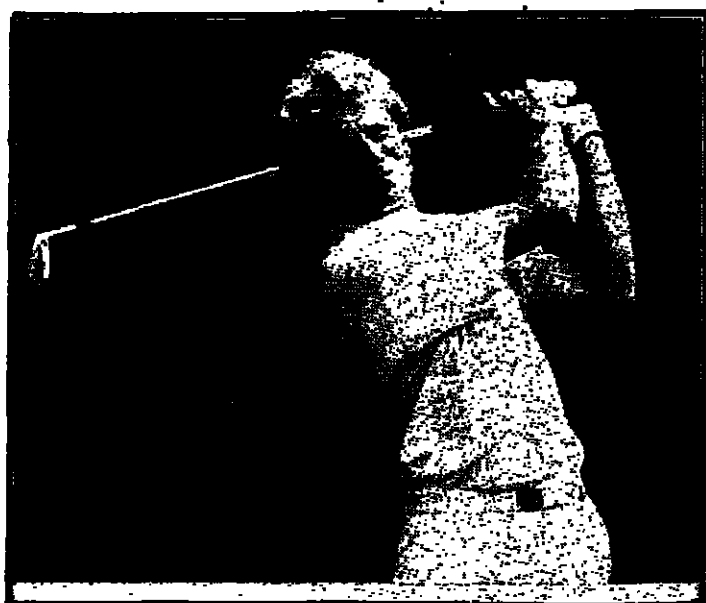
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Bernhard Langer hopes to finally claim the top spot at this year's British Open Golf Championship (INP-Photo/Sven Simon)

Kenya joins in boycott of the Commonwealth Games

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya announced on Saturday it was withdrawing from the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in protest against British policy towards South Africa.

President Daniel Arap Moi said in a statement the decision was taken because of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's refusal to impose economic sanctions against the South African government.

Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda have already pulled out of the "friendly games" for the same reason and the four Commonwealth members of the frontline states confronting South Africa — Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — are likely to follow suit next week.

Moi said the refusal of Britain to impose sanctions went against the strong wishes of many African states and in ignoring their feelings Britain was undermining Commonwealth links.

Kenya was planning to send Africa's strongest athletic squad to the games, a team of 45 who had been expected to provide keen competition in the main men's track events.

Meanwhile, in London the chairman of the Commonwealth Games joined British diplomats Saturday in seeking to avert a total African boycott of the event.

Games Organising Committee Chairman Ken Borthwick told reporters he sent telexes to the heads of state of African nations still agreeing to participate, urging them to stick with their plans to send athletes to the Scottish capital.

"I would fervently hope there is not now going to be a domino effect," he said. "But even if that is the case the games would still be a success."

Diplomats have been seeking to persuade the remaining participants still to send teams, a spokeswoman said.

Robert Maxwell, the British media magnate handling financial arrangements for the games, called on governments not to use them for political aims.

But Maxwell said there was no question of the event being wrecked by a mass boycott. "We have over 50 nations who are coming and even if the Africans don't attend there will still be 500 more competitors than at the last games," he said.

Despite the loss of 134 contestants so far, officials say over 2,000 are lined up to compete.

Czechs lose another Davis Cup player

VIENNA (R) — Czechoslovakia, already without French and U.S. Open champion Ivan Lendl, will also be missing Pavel Slozil through illness for the Davis Cup tennis quarter-final against Yugoslavia next week.

The official Czechoslovak news agency said Saturday Slozil had been suffering from headaches and his illness "will require at least a week's quiet."

Labor Pimek will take his place, teaming up with Miloslav Mecir, Tomas Smid and Milan Srejber for the tie in Sarajevo from July 18 to 20.

The tall Romanian burst away from Britain's Zola Budd and Yvonne Murray over the final 200 metres to clock 5:28.69 and clip three hundredths of a second off Tatyana Kazankina's two-year-old record.

Afterwards, Puica revealed that she had to battle against a leg injury as well as the rain and the noise from a capacity 16,000 crowd that roared on Budd and Murray.

"During the second lap, a leg muscle contracted a little and I developed a cramp in the calf," she said.

Budd, the South African-born 5,000 metre world record holder, ran in her favoured barefoot style despite the driving rain and stayed shoulder-to-shoulder with Puica for most of the race.

But her dream of beating her rival for the first time in six attempts suddenly disintegrated as the Romanian pulled away powerfully.

The thing Budd was eventually edged into third place by Murray — who set a new Commonwealth record — and admitted she ran a poor race.

"I expected to run faster but nothing seemed to come together."

British Open returns to Turnberry, site of epic Watson-Nicklaus battle

By Brian Creighton
Reuters

LONDON — The British Open Golf Championship returns to Turnberry next week, nine years after that course staged a duel regarded by many as the game's greatest shootout.

When the Open was played on that Scottish west coast links in 1977, Americans Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus did everything but gun down each other in an epic clash that left the rest of the field also rans.

When it was over, Watson had shot his second successive 65 for an Open record total — which still stands — of 268. Nicklaus had to settle for a 66 to finish one shot behind on 269, still the second best four-round score of the championship.

So dominant were they that compatriot Hubert Green, the U.S. Open champion that year, said after his third-place total of 279: "I won the tournament I played in. I won the other championship."

While a similar battle between the pair is probably too much to hope for, they are again among the favourites for the title.

Nicklaus, now 46, scotched suggestions in April that he should put his feet up in well-earned retirement by spectacularly winning the U.S. Masters title at Augusta with a blitz of six birdies and an eagle over the last 10 holes.

After his final round of 65 for his 20th major championship triumph, Nicklaus conceded he is not the golfer he once was, adding: "I just want to be occasionally as good as I used to be. Today I was."

He has continued to play well, finishing joint eighth at the U.S. Open, and his resurgence leaves

him in with a fighting chance of adding to the British Open titles he won in 1966, 1970 and 1978. If he succeeds he will be the oldest player to win it.

Watson, the holder of five British Open titles, is in the reckoning for the same reasons Nicklaus was in other years — for his former exploits rather than for any recent achievements.

Now 36, Watson has not won a major event since his fifth British Open in 1983 and any tournament since the 1984 Western Open.

But it would be dangerous to dismiss him after a series of solid performances on this year's U.S. tour which have left him 10th on the money list.

He needs to regain his putting touch, which he displayed in so decisive a manner as he won in 1977 by holing a 60-foot putt from the fringe of the 16th green — the stroke that ultimately sank Nicklaus.

In 1977, American dominance of the Open reached its zenith when U.S. golfers filled 11 of the top 12 positions. But U.S. pre-eminence is under attack from Europe and the challenge next week seems certain to be led by Severiano Ballesteros.

Ballesteros is, as his U.S. rivals would put it, on a roll. Banned from all but the major events on the American tour in a lingering row with tour commissioner Deane Beman, the Spaniard has been carrying all before him in Europe.

After two seconds, a joint fourth and a third place finish in his first four tournaments in Europe this year, he has won four European events in succession.

Now 29, Ballesteros has captured 47 titles since coming to prominence in the 1976 British

Open at Royal Birkdale, a record that includes the U.S. Masters title twice and the British Opens of 1979 and 1984.

At the end of last year, West German Bernhard Langer was regarded as the world's top golfer after wins in the Australian Masters, the U.S. Masters and Heritage Classic events, and the West German and European Opens.

This year he has yet to record a victory, but Langer has the best record of anyone in the last five British Opens, finishing second twice and third once. This could be the year he breaks through.

Last year Sandy Lyle became the first British winner of the Open since Tony Jacklin in 1969 and his victory in the Colonial Tournament just before the U.S. Masters enhanced his reputation.

"I've done it once and I can do it again," is Lyle's battle cry heading for Turnberry.

Greg Norman of Australia, U.S. money list leader with earnings of nearly \$550,000, has never won a major event but is poised to do so after being in contention at the U.S. Masters and U.S. Open this year.

Most of the other major contenders are Americans, led by U.S. Open champion Ray Floyd and Bob Tway, who has won three times this year to stand second behind Norman on the money list.

In 1977 the sun shone and the wind retreated, yet only three players broke the 72-hole par of 280. Such benign conditions are unlikely again on what is regarded as a typically tough British championship links course.

So Watson's record total, established so memorably nine years ago, looks likely to remain intact.

Romania's Puica sets new 2,000 metre record

LONDON (AP) — Marica Puica of Romania set a new world best time for the women's 2,000 metres on Friday while Americans Carl Lewis and Evelyn Ashford both posted convincing sprint victories in the eighth leg of the season's IAAF/Mobil Track and Field Grand Prix.

On one of the biggest nights of track and field ever staged in Britain, 13 Olympic champions lined up alongside six world record holders and six world champions in the Peugeot Talbot Games.

Puica, the Olympic 3,000-metre champion, showed that, even at 35 years old, she has lost none of her speed or competitive edge.

The tall Romanian burst away from Britain's Zola Budd and Yvonne Murray over the final 200 metres to clock 5:28.69 and clip three hundredths of a second off Tatyana Kazankina's two-year-old record.

Afterwards, Puica revealed that she had to battle against a leg injury as well as the rain and the noise from a capacity 16,000 crowd that roared on Budd and Murray.

"During the second lap, a leg muscle contracted a little and I developed a cramp in the calf," she said.

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But her dream of beating her rival for the first time in six attempts suddenly disintegrated as the Romanian pulled away powerfully.

The thing Budd was eventually edged into third place by Murray — who set a new Commonwealth record — and admitted she ran a poor race.

"I expected to run faster but nothing seemed to come together."

I don't think there are any excuses. The track was not all that slippery," Budd said.

Lewis, quadruple Olympic champion in Los Angeles, shrugged off a defeat at the Goodwill Games in Moscow two days ago by winning the 200 metres in 20.63 seconds from John Dismas of Australia, who finished second in 20.83. Britain's Todd Bennett was third.

The showdown between Lewis and one of the two men who beat him over 100 metres in Moscow, Nigeria's, Chidi Ino, never materialised.

Ino, whose victory over Lewis was tempered by the news that Nigeria had boycotted this month's Commonwealth Games, suffered a further setback when he slipped in his blocks and pulled up just after the start of Friday's race.

Ashford continued her impressive comeback after having a baby last year by romping away with the women's 200 metres in 22.26.

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The last day for the submission of the offers, together with a tender guarantee amounting 5% of the contract value, shall be 12:00 noon of Monday 25th Aug. 1986, at JIEC offices in Amman (the Housing Bank complex, third floor).

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Experts commend soundness of Jordanian economy, dinar

AMMAN (Petra) — Economists and financial experts believe that the Jordanian economy is strong and that the Jordanian dinar is firmly maintaining its value. They attribute the solid monetary position to wise government financial policies and legislations and to the security and stability that characterise the business climate in Jordan.

The economists credit the Jordanian citizens' expatriate for much of the savings in the Kingdom's balance of payments. They highlight the perseverance and dedication of the citizen as he/she strives to maintain high production rates and unique economic and financial relations with Arab and foreign economies.

Among other reasons for the sound economic standing that Jordan enjoys, the experts value the link between the Jordanian dinar and the Special Drawing Right (SDR) which is the official accounting unit of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The SDR is formed from a basket of currencies by specified percentages for each of the West German mark, French franc, Japanese yen and the British pound for a total of 50 per cent and the U.S. dollar alone for the remaining 50 per cent.

Arab Jordan Investment Bank Deputy General Manager Jawad Hadid says that the SDRs are characterized by their relative

stability. He attributes the firm exchange rate of the dinar to the balance between the supply of foreign currencies and the demand for them. Dr. Hadid sees another factor in the stability in the 1985 surplus in the balance of payments which amounted to JD 38 million.

Other reasons, Dr. Hadid says, are the control over the increase in the money supply, which means that there is a close control over the Jordanian currency issued nationwide and the low inflation rate, which will not exceed 3.2 per cent by the end of the year, according to the official statistics available.

He adds that if the current situation continues to prevail, the inflation rate will not be more than 3.5 per cent, which means that the Jordanian dinar will continue to maintain its purchasing power.

Dr. Hadid also cites the high interest rates paid on JD current and time deposits, which reach up to 8.75 per cent, as one of the factors behind the firm exchange

rate of the Jordanian dinar.

Dr. Hadid adds that the economic policies which have been put into effect during the last few years, whereby customs duties on imported goods have been raised or importation of some items has been banned to provide the necessary protection for Jordanian products, also contribute to the firm exchange rate, because it reduces the demand for foreign currencies, thus achieving a balance between supply and demand.

Dr. Hashem Dabbas, Audit Bureau chief says the Jordanian economy is unique among the economies of the Middle East region. He adds that the gross national product has reached JD 1,875.3 million in 1984, against JD 376 million in the year 1975, which is an increase of more than 500 per cent.

This increase, Dr. Dabbas says, means that the Jordanian citizen is confident of the strong Jordanian economy and the Jordanian dinar. He notes that the increase in expatriates' transfers also contribute to the strength of the economic situation and consequently to the strength of the dinar.

Expatriates' transfers to Jordan during the first four months of this year totalled JD 119 million according to Central Bank of Jordan statistics. The statistics show that the Jordanian exports have increased by 25 per cent during the same period, compared with the first four months of the year 1985.

Dr. Dabbas admits that Jordan, in view of the surrounding economic situation and the world economic recession, caused partly by the drop in oil prices, feels the pressures but he notes that a number of measures including ban on the importation of some commodities, which can be manufactured locally, and the imposition of high custom duties on some products for rationalising their consumption, will save some of the money that Jordan previously spent for the importation of such items.

Among other regulations, Dr. Dabbas says, is also the government's policy in the area of borrowing, whereby loans were only restricted to developmental projects under low interest rates and on easy terms.

Dr. Dabbas views the current recession in the region as temporary because it is not linked with a classical economic crisis as it is caused by the drop in oil prices, the Iran-Iraq war and the Lebanese civil war.

Mr. Fakhri Bilbeisi, director general of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International says that the Jordanian dinar derives its strength from the basket of foreign currencies it is linked to and from other reserves like gold. Mr. Bilbeisi expects no inflation by the end of this year, and if any, he sees it in a circumstance exceeding one per cent.

Mr. Bilbeisi says it is time that interest rates drop a little in order to encourage investment and to push the wheel of development forward at a quicker pace.

Dr. Maher Al Waked, chief of the inspection and control division at the Bank of Jordan expects an increase in the expatriates' transfers to Jordan in view of the drop in the interest rates on foreign currencies, particularly the U.S. dollar.

Dr. Al Waked says that Jordan, being a developing country, needs financial aid from Arab brothers and other friendly countries to enable it to implement its development projects and to meet its obligations to kinsmen in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr. Fahed Al Fanek, a Jordanian economist, says that the Jordanian dinar is backed by sizeable reserves of gold and foreign currencies which come from Arab and foreign aids, the expatriates' transfers and international loans.

Dr. Fanek adds that the inflation rate in 1985 was three per cent, while it was less than one per cent during the first half of this year.

Speaking about Jordan's total reserves of gold and foreign currencies, Dr. Fanek notes that it was worth JD 741 million at the end of the year 1984, compared with JD 781 million at the end of the year 1985.

Oil prices slip lower

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil futures failed to sustain a rally and again slipped lower Friday, with most gasoline and heating oil contracts down a cent or more a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"Prices were back and forth all day, but always with a downward bias," said Mr. Peter Beutel, an analyst with Elders Futures Inc. brokerage firm.

"Mostly it was profit taking" after a slight run-up on Thursday, said Ed Dellamonte, an analyst with Prudential-Bache Securities.

"Everyone expected it. There's no support in this market."

The one positive element, he said, was that West Texas Intermediate crude oil for delivery

in the closest delivery month closed above \$11 a barrel, despite heavy pressure from the sharp losses in gasoline and heating oil.

Meanwhile, the top three U.S. oil companies on Friday cut the prices they pay for crude oil, reflecting the continuing glut in world petroleum supplies.

Texasco Inc., Exxon Corp. and Mobil Corp. announced the reductions in the so-called "posting price" they offer for various grades, including West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark domestic crude.

Texasco and Exxon each shaved \$1 off their previous price, to \$13 a barrel; while Mobil dropped its level by 50 cents to \$12.75.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, July 5, '86 and ending Wednesday, July 9, '86 (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Petra Bank	2320	5699	2.560	2.400	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	200	430	2.180	2.150	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	6505	12964	2.010	1.980	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	200	288	1.450	1.440	1.000
Housing Bank	9112	14579	1.600	1.600	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	1250	2500	2.010	2.000	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	348	9744	28.000	28.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	50	903	18.300	18.100	5.000
Arab Bank	1410	185933	134.000	131.750	10.000
Jordan National Bank	25744	64620	2.520	2.530	1.000
Jordan Finance House	6375	5105	0.790	0.820	1.000
Islamic Investment House	32872	28282	0.780	0.850	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	11211	8909	1.310	1.290	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	21420	7131	0.840	0.840	1.000
National Financial Investments	40950	49117	1.200	1.200	1.000
National Securities Corporation	1290	782	0.630	0.610	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	2094	1999	1.000	0.590	1.000
Industrial Development Bank	700	770	1.090	1.100	1.000
Insurance					
Jordan French Insurance	5230	13381	2.540	2.570	1.000
REPCO Insurance	1226	527	0.930	0.930	1.000
Jordan Insurance	450	4500	10.000	10.000	1.000
Arab Insurance	1325	978	0.760	0.730	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	3700	3526	0.950	0.950	1.000
Arabian Sea Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	1000	800	0.800	0.800	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	290	408	1.470	1.400	1.000
Petra Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	200	156	0.790	0.780	1.000
Universal Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Insurance	3830	6000	1.550	1.600	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	10	250	25.000	25.000	10.000
Services and industries					
Danco for Housing and Investment	16044	9708	0.530	0.620	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqaro)	7282	3796	0.500	0.530	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Sheab Press	—	—	—	—	1.000
Publishing and Distribution	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	171	111	0.660	0.650	1.000
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	2041	3715	1.820	1.820	1.000
Jordan Electric Power	14599	22102	1.520	1.520	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	32390	22829	0.690	0.730	1.000
Jordan Dairy	8757	9931	1.130	1.140	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	21095	11585	0.560	0.560	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	5958	13341	2.200	2.250	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Iotaj)	4392	8030	1.770	1.850	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergents	1037	4355	4.150	4.200	1.000
Alladin Industries	4000	2174	0.530	0.550	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	33116	2800	0.850	0.850	1.000
Jordan Worst Mills	1416	5472	3.850	3.900	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	1645	1603	0.970	1.000	1.000
Chemical Industries	100	97	0.980	0.970	1.000
Jordan Industries and Matches (JIMCO)	950	504	0.520	0.530	1.000
Arab International Hotels	2350	846	0.360	0.360	1.000
Dar Al Dewa' for Development and Investment	4343	6490	1.490	1.500	1.000
National Steel Industries	14020	16767	1.180	1.210	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	250	200	0.830	0.800	1.000
General Mining	1555	2729	1.720	1.760	1.000
Petra for Projects & Leasing	22394	4250	0.690	0.690	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	3787	26154	6.820	6.960	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	2822	676	0.220	0.240	1.000
National Industries	8500	5299	0.780	0.630	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	250	70	0.300	0.280	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	1300	1306	1.070	1.070	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	1200	660	0.540	0.550	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	2650	3364	1.260	1.260	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	1040	2727	2.630	2.620	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Trans Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Irbit District Electricity	130	131	1.060	1.010	1.000
Al Himmeh Minerals	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries	1500	958	0.650	0.630	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Development and Investment	600	280	0.500	0.500	1.000
Grand total	405294	657366			

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: After a confusing morning, you find there are a number of interesting communications and calls you can make. Get into various personal relationships.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid outside activities which could disappoint you. Study your status quo and plan to improve it.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Forget new ideas for now and find out what your mate expects of you and get fine results.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) An outside partner can be of assistance to you even though a close one can confuse you immensely.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Avoid that outsider who can cause you to get confused. Handle problems at home tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you have any vital letters to write, the evening is best for this. Get into the privacy of your study for best results.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Forget amusements and get your home in better condition. Take time to study your property and improve it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Avoid situations at home that you do not approve of. Tonight entertain your friends when things are right.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be careful when driving and especially of others. Study your financial status and think how to improve it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Concentrate on long-wished-for goals. Be with a group of congenials and have a nice evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Gain good suggestions from a trusted advisor. Tonight is fine for planning next week's activities.

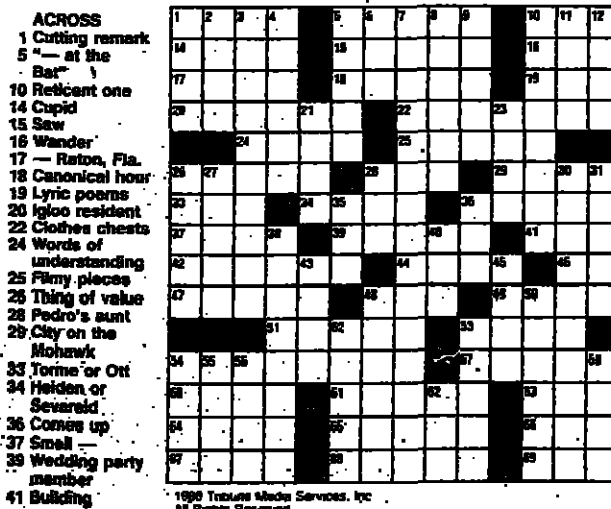
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Forget anxiety and go see good friends. Turn a recent acquaintance into an ally at that time.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Avoid an older person who can annoy you. Study how to make big headway next week. Plan new actions.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will like to daydream too much, so give good training and generate objectivity early in life. One who would do very well in the arts and whatever is connected with social life as a profession such as caterer, orator, etc. Your progeny is a natural charmer.

THE Daily Crossword

by Stanley B. Whitten



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1 Cutting remark | 3 Ill. city | 40 Chemical | 53 Unlocks |
| 2 at the | 4 Brown in fat | 41 suffix | 54 Clock |
| 3 Bar | 5 Kayak's cousin | 42 Convey or | 55 Sender |
| 4 Cupid | 6 Trouble | 43 O'clock | 56 Jo or speaker |
| 5 Saw | 7 Herald | 44 Conductor | 57 Salute |
| 6 Wander | 8 Female adviser | 45 Harsh | 58 Actual |
| 7 Ratton, Fla. | 9 Affirmative | 46 Harvested | 59 Hanoi |
| 8 Canonical hour | 10 Railroad track | 47 | 60 holiday |
| 9 Lyric poems | 11 Smiler | | |
| 10 Igloo resident | 12 Wife and | | |
| 11 Clothes chests | 13 Hedgepodge | | |
| 12 Words of | 14 Distribute | | |
| 13 Flimsy pieces | 15 Sound | | |
| 14 Thing of value | 16 File up | | |
| 15 Peat's seat | 17 Caravanary | | |
| 16 City on the | 18 the | | |
| 17 Mohawk | 19 season | | |
| 18 Torment or Out | 20 | | |
| 19 Halves or | 21 | | |
| 20 Scoundrel | 22 | | |
| 21 Come up | 23 | | |
| 22 Small | 24 | | |
| 23 Wedding party | 25 | | |
| 24 member | 26 | | |
| 25 Building | 27 | | |
| 26 extensions | 28 | | |
| 27 Most rational | 29 | | |
| 28 Foot part | 30 | | |
| 29 Guido's high | 31 | | |
| 30 note | 32 | | |
| 31 Move in a way | 33 | | |
| 32 Comp. pt. | 34 | | |
| 33 Flimsy | 35 | | |
| 34 Court part | 36 | | |
| 35 Blatant | 37 | | |
| 36 Lifetime | 38 | | |
| 37 Actor | 39 | | |
| 38 Gloster horse | 40 | | |
| 39 Peat's seat | 41 | | |
| 40 (make haste slowly) | 42 | | |
| 41 Overlay | 43 | | |
| 42 Shook | 44 | | |
| 43 Ewe or Enoch | 45 | | |
| 44 Lamb | 46 | | |
| 45 A Gardner | 47 | | |
| 46 Slopes | 48 | | |
| 47 Scoundrel | 49 | | |
| 48 valley | 50 | | |
| DOWN | 51 | | |
| 1 Ruth or | 52 | | |
| 2 Zacheron | 53 | | |
| 3 Andy's job | 54 | | |

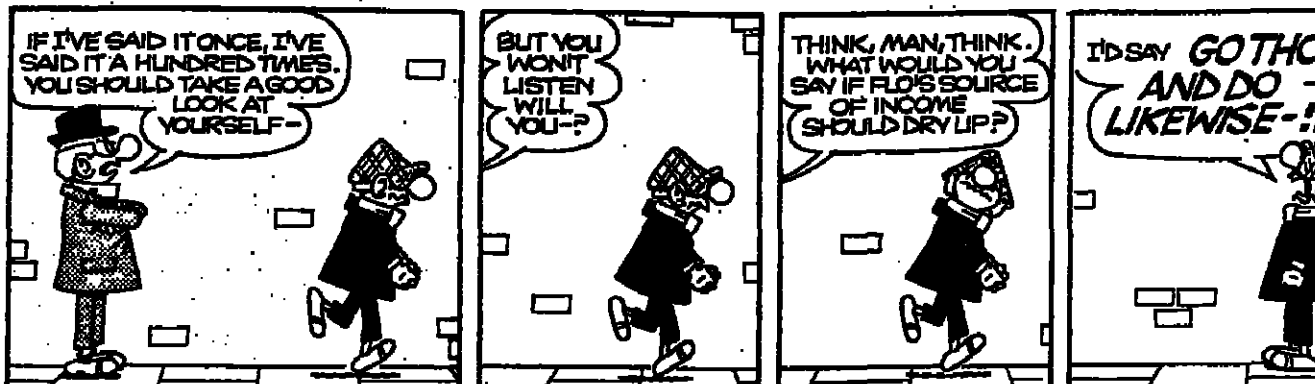
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



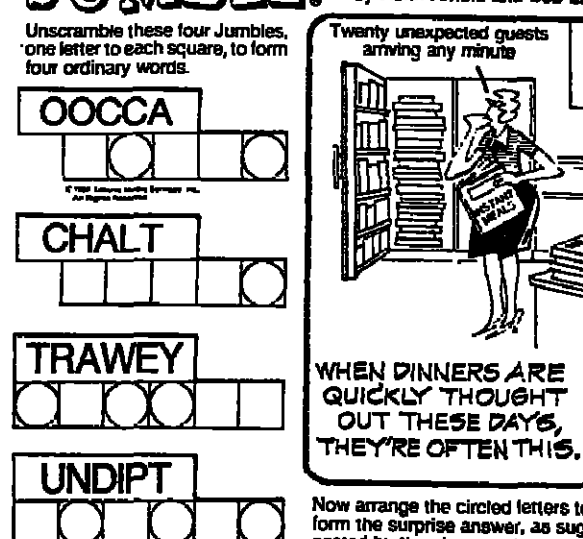
THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MOLDY GROOM ATTACH LEEWAY

Answer: What air pollution is—NO EARTHLY GOOD

5 more die in S. Africa as Howe mission suffers setback

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa announced five more deaths in black political violence Saturday after an already fragile peace mission by British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe suffered another setback.

Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, Friday ruled out any chance of her husband meeting Sir Geoffrey, who is to visit South Africa later this month as an emissary of the European Community.

Sir Geoffrey is seeking to promote dialogue between the white-led government and the black majority in an effort to end bitter clashes between security forces and township people and between rival black groups.

Pretoria's Bureau for Information, which has controlled reports of political violence since emergency rule was imposed a month ago, said Saturday that five more people had died in inter-black violence. It gave no details.

Despite the mounting death toll — 151 people have died in township clashes and guerrilla violence since the emergency was

imposed — the bureau's statement Saturday said: "The downward trend regarding unrest-related incidents is still continuing."

Most of the deaths the bureau has reported since the emergency have been attributed to "black-on-black violence" — clashes between radicals and those they accuse of working with the white authorities.

The Howe peace mission has been written off as a waste of time by major black leaders. Winnie Mandela, whose husband is leader of the banned African National Congress (ANC), told reporters after she saw Mr. Mandela in his Cape Town prison Friday: "He is not in a position to meet Sir Geoffrey at all."

Black churchman and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu dismissed the mission in these words: "I don't waste my time... I am sick and tired of trying

to persuade people overseas. I've spent too much of my time trying to do that."

This report is restricted under strict media curbs imposed under month-long emergency rule designed to quell protest that has claimed over 2,000 lives in the past two and a half years.

Tutu said there was no point in seeing Sir Geoffrey when the so-called Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group had spent six months in South Africa with the same aim.

The Commonwealth group, concluding that Pretoria was not serious about negotiations, said economic pressure was the only option left to the West if a bloodbath were to be avoided.

Sir Geoffrey, representing the 12 nations of the European Community, also met with a chilly reception from external black leaders.

Zimbabwean President Kenneth Kaunda, Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and Mozambique's Samora Machel object to the British government's refusal to impose sanctions on Pretoria.

They attacked what they see as British and U.S. support for South Africa through their reluctance to implement measures against the government.

Sir Geoffrey left for home Friday and will confer in the United States with Secretary of State George Shultz before coming here to meet President P.W. Botha later this month. Britain wanted the talks this week, but Mr. Botha said he was too busy.

Police headquarters in Pretoria said the security forces shot dead six ANC guerrillas near the northern border with Botswana on Thursday and seized weapons. One member of the security forces was injured.

Four more guerrillas were killed by police in a shootout in the eastern Cape province at the other end of the country.

Johannesburg newspapers reported that at least 32 men detained without trial had been on hunger strike since Monday at the Modderbee jail in protest against emergency rule and prison conditions.

The prisons service declined to confirm or deny the report.

Thatcher to urge Canadians against Pretoria sanctions

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has arrived in Canada determined to drive home her message that the way to achieve peaceful change in South Africa is through dialogue and not sanctions.

Officials said Mrs. Thatcher was ready to press her argument to Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney when they meet in Montreal Sunday.

Mr. Mulroney, who has refused to rule out sanctions, is emerging as a key figure in a debate within the 49-nation Commonwealth which has pitted Thatcher against those who believe Pretoria will give up white minority rule only under coercion.

The officials travelling with Mrs. Thatcher from London to the Western Canadian city of Vancouver said she was more determined than ever that sanctions were wrong and unwarranted.

Mrs. Thatcher arrived in Vancouver Friday night on a mission to boost her country's trade and image on British Day at the Expo 86 world's fair.

Mrs. Thatcher flew from London on the Anglo-French Concorde, the world's only supersonic commercial airliner.

It was Mrs. Thatcher's first ride on Concorde and after visiting the flight deck she exclaimed: "It's fantastic, it's so stable."

Mrs. Thatcher was due to spend most of Saturday touring the Expo waterfront site.

In a keynote speech she planned to say that Britain, which she has ruled with a tough hand of conservatism for seven years, is once more a strong and resourceful country.

The officials said Mrs. Thatcher hoped her Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe would achieve a breakthrough in South Africa.

Sir Geoffrey returned to London Friday at the end of the first leg of a mission on behalf of the European Community aimed at promoting dialogue between Pretoria's apartheid rulers and the country's restless black majority.

He visited Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique and will return to the region at the end of the month for two crucial meetings with South African President P.W. Botha.

The officials said Mrs. Thatcher believed the two meetings, arranged after Mr. Botha snubbed Sir Geoffrey by saying he could not see him on the first leg of his trip, held out genuine hope.

Police open fire during latest Ahmedabad riots

AHMEDABAD, India (R) — Police opened fire twice on stone-throwing crowds Saturday as Hindu-Muslim riots erupted in this Western Indian city for the fourth successive day.

Police said a police officer was stabbed in the back and seriously injured as he and his men fired at a crowd trying to loot and set fire to shops in a working-class suburb.

At least five other people were stabbed in other incidents, police said.

Twenty people have been killed since rioting began on Wednesday when Muslims stoned a Hindu religious procession.

Both shooting incidents Saturday occurred in suburbs previously untouched by the disturbances, away from the ancient city centre where thousands of police patrolling the narrow streets enforced a strict curfew.

The old quarter, where violence began on Wednesday, was at a standstill. A spokesman for the Gujarat state government said towns and cities across the state were also shut down after a strike call by militant Hindus.

The Hindu Suraksha Samiti (defence organisation) called the strike to protest at Wednesday's alleged attack on 50,000 worshippers accompanying a huge idol of the God Jagannath (juggernaut) through Ahmedabad's old quarter.

Press reports have said the procession was stoned after obscene slogans were shouted at Muslims.

Hindu leaders refused to call off the strike in talks with authorities Friday night and a Muslim leader told Reuters it was likely to aggravate the situation.

Chandigarh currently serves as the joint capital of Haryana and Punjab.

Ibrahim Sait, secretary of the All-India Muslim Federation, said the strike would "give bad elements a chance to make the situation worse. It is innocent people of both communities who have died, not the troublemakers."

Police said 500 paramilitary troops were arriving by air to reinforce the 10,000-strong security force in the city.

In the walled quarter, where most of Ahmedabad's 2.5 million inhabitants live and Muslims and Hindus live side-by-side in the ancient, narrow streets, policemen stood guard at 10 metre intervals and numerous police vehicles were on patrol.

Since the riots began, crowds of Hindus and Muslims, sometimes thousands strong on each side, have fought with stones, knives, clubs and acid bombs and occasional gunfire.

Scores of people have been injured and more than 400 arrests have been made.

Punjab accord postponed

Meanwhile in Punjab a land swap crucial to the Punjab peace accord has been postponed for a third time at the request of the leader of Sikh moderates, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Saturday.

Mr. Gandhi said Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, who heads the Sikh Akali Dal Party, had informed him that the territorial exchange would have to be delayed until the state government finishes a military offensive against underground Sikh extremists.

Chandigarh currently serves as the joint capital of Haryana and Punjab.

CIA reportedly is running contra activities

NEW YORK (AP) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is being given the day-to-day responsibility of running rebel military operations against the government of Nicaragua, the New York Times reported Saturday.

Under the plan, the State Department has overall policy direction of the operations, unidentified officials told newspaper.

The head of the CIA, William Casey, promised Secretary of State George Shultz that any actions that could be embarrassing if uncovered would be cleared with the State Department, the newspaper said.

"We can't have another mining of the harbours," a State Department official said in reference to the controversy that developed when it was learned that CIA agents had mined two harbours in Nicaragua without the explicit approval of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The committee was supposed to be informed of such actions. Mr. Casey's record on building an effective system to arm and train U.S.-backed guerrilla forces in Nicaragua and elsewhere has been mixed, officials in the administration and Congress say.

Rather than relying so heavily on the CIA, some officials in the State Department would have preferred that the Defence Department play a more direct role in helping to manage an expected expansion of the war.

However, according to the Times report, the Pentagon resisted efforts to bring it into direction of the war.

Officials told the newspaper that Casey had made a determined case to make sure his agency was given the responsibility to direct the operations.

A White House spokesman, Michael Ghouse, declined comment on the Times' report.

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A White House spokesman, Michael Ghouse, declined comment on the Times' report.

Salvadorean guerrillas offer ceasefire

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Rebels in El Salvador have put forward peace proposals which include a ceasefire and an offer to participate in general elections after formation of a transitional government.

The proposals, announced by guerrilla leader Joaquin Villalobos Friday night, marked the first breakthrough in weeks to end a stalemate between the government and rebels in talks aimed at ending the seven-year-old civil war.

Although the rebels have made similar proposals before, this was believed to be the first one accompanied by an offer to halt the fighting, which has caused about 60,000 deaths.

When told of the plan, a Western diplomat dismissed it as "nothing much new" and said it contained the basic elements of a proposal put forth by the rebels during the second round of failed peace talks in November 1984.

President Jose Napoleon Duarte proposed a third round of talks with the rebels last month.

Although the rebels almost immediately agreed to the third round, the two sides have thus far failed to agree on an agenda, date or venue for the meeting, and leaders of both sides have said the meeting plan appeared to have broken down.

There was no government response to the rebel statement, broadcast over Radio Venceremos, radio station of the guerrilla Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Villalobos, who heads the FMLN, said his group and the rebel political wing, the Democratic Revolutionary Front (DRF), would honour a general ceasefire in order to install a transitional government.

The government would be part of a power-sharing arrangement between the two sides, which would involve recognising the current one, elected in 1984, to include representatives from all political sectors.

The FMLN would serve as only one component, Villalobos said. The transitional government would work out what Villalobos called "the political solution" to the war while it organised "clean and free general elections."

In keeping with the guerrillas' long-stated policy never to give up their weapons, Villalobos said the rebels would agree to maintain separate armed forces which could later be integrated into a single national force.

"With the ceasefire declared, the FMLN will maintain its army and arms. The (Salvadorean) Armed Forces will maintain their institutional role," Villalobos said.

"The new government that emerges will look for a negotiated solution to the problem of the existence of the two armies. The FMLN agrees to participate in good faith in that negotiation," he added.

include representatives from all political sectors. The FMLN and the DRF would both serve as only one component, Villalobos said.

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W. German firm gets SDI contract

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Defence Department has said it has awarded a \$4 million contract to a West German company to design experiments for infrared sensing devices in space as part of a "Star Wars" missile defence.

The contract is the largest signed yet under a March 27 memorandum of understanding between the United States and West Germany allowing German companies to take part in the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), popularly known as Star Wars.

Under the agreement announced Friday, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm GmbH of Munich is to design, by this October, a plan for a space-based infrared experiment to be carried aloft on a shuttle flight. No such flights have been

scheduled since the shuttle Challenger was destroyed in flight last January.

The agreement also would allow Messerschmitt to win subsequent contracts worth \$38.8 million, which would make it the largest SDI award to a foreign concern. Other German companies have signed smaller Star Wars contracts, but Pentagon officials said they were unable to provide details.

The Pentagon has signed agreements on SDI cooperation with Britain and Israel, and Canada has said that Canadian firms may take part in the research. Other U.S. allies have balked at becoming involved in Star Wars.

President Ronald Reagan launched the Star Wars programme in March 1983 to allow U.S. leaders to decide in the

early 1990's whether to develop advanced ballistic missile defences to be based on the ground or in space.

Messerschmitt collaborated with the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on an earlier shuttle experiment, although that deal was not arranged through the Strategic Defence Initiative Organisation, which administers the Star Wars programme.

The infrared sensor is one device being examined for possible use in sorting nuclear-armed reentry vehicles from decoys as they fly through space toward their targets. Other space- or ground-based devices would then be used to destroy the warheads, according to preliminary SDI plans.

Protestant gangs, police clash in N. Ireland

PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland (AP) — Protestant gangs tossed gasoline bombs at police around the province early Saturday and opened fire on a police car in Belfast, officials said.

The violence, in which 28 police were injured, occurred ahead of Saturday's annual battle of the Boyne Marches when Protestants across the British-ruled province celebrate the defeat of a Catholic army in 1690.

Protestant militants mark the anniversary in angry mood this year because of the Anglo-Irish agreement of last Nov. 15.

They have condemned the accord giving the government of the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republic a formal consultative role in running predominantly Protestant Northern Ireland as a sell-out.

Belfast police headquarters said in a statement that the shooting in Belfast occurred in the Oldpark Road area. But it said the injuries to bystanders were not serious. In other violence in Belfast, small groups of Protestants threw gasoline bombs at police, who replied with plastic bullets.

At Newtownards 16 kilometres east of Belfast, police reported the discovery of a man's body but said they did not know whether he had been victim of a sectarian killing.

At Portadown 40 kilometres south west of Belfast, over 100 youths on the fringe of a crowd of about 1,000 Protestants attending a traditional bonfire marking the battle anniversary attacked police with rocks and gasoline bombs. Others briefly blocked a road with barrels.

Police said 14 officers in the Portadown violence were hurt and that they made three arrests. They said one man was knocked down as a police land rover drove through a crowd of Protestants but he got up and ran off. Police fired plastic bullets to disperse the youths.

In other violence in Portadown, several dozen Protestant youths and a similar number of Catholic youths threw gasoline bombs and rocks at each other in a series of skirmishes that lasted about an hour. The Protestants also threw gasoline bombs and rocks at Catholic homes in the area but no damage was reported.

Former Soviet inmates allege prisoners exposed to radiation

LONDON (AP) — Former inmates of Soviet labour camps say in a British television documentary that prisoners were exposed to fatal level of radiation in unsafe uranium mines in the 1970s.

In the documentary, the Nuclear Gulag, a commentator alleges that prisoners died of cancer and other radiation-linked diseases after working without protective clothing in mines that produce uranium for Soviet nuclear weapons.

Most of the inmate labourers died within two years after being exposed to dust and radon, the radioactive dust given off by uranium, the commentator said, giving no numbers.

The 52-minute documentary includes brief footage, said to have been taken secretly, of prison camps, prisoners and a deserted uranium mine near Pyatigorsk, about 1,600 kilometres south of Moscow.

It is not clear in the programme whether the conditions described still exist.

Herman Hartfeld, who said he was arrested for his work as a minister of an unregistered Baptist Church, said he was imprisoned at camp in Aksu, 255 kilometres south west of Omsk, and worked for 18 months with uranium, first in a mine and then in a reprocessing plant.

He said fellow prisoners stricken with radiation-linked diseases were sent to a special infirmary at Karaganda where they were used for medical experiments.

Hartfeld said he was often called to minister to dying prisoners.

"They were aware they were dying of leukaemia, even cancer or tuberculosis and so on," he said. "They were exhausted, very tired, they couldn't eventually move or walk, and they became so thin that they looked like shadows of persons."

Hartfeld said that six or seven prisoners committed suicide by blowing themselves up with dynamite.

Hartfeld said he was breaking a 12-year silence about his experiences to expose conditions in labour camps. He said that before he left the Soviet Union in 1974, a lieutenant in the KGB secret police, Ordov Chienko, told him the Soviets would deny everything and "undertake everything to eliminate" him.

Alexander Chachulin, described as a former prisoner who now lives in West Germany, said thousands of people died at Beshtau, the now-deserted uranium mine near Pyatigorsk.

Chachulin said there were 4,000 to 5,000 prisoners working at Beshtau and more prisoners were brought there in trainloads every few months.

The film included footage of what was said to be Vladimir Prison Camp, 64 kilometres east of Moscow, with enclosed wooden walkways connecting the cell blocks. Nikolai Shargin, identified as a prisoner there in the 1970s, said the walkways were enclosed to keep prisoners in ignorance about other inmates.

A former Soviet lawyer, Konstantin Simik, said in the documentary that being sent to a uranium mine was the same as "a death penalty."

He said he had defended a black market speculator whose death sentence was commuted to a sentence in a uranium mine, "and he died in 18 months."

Following Friday's preview, "20-20 vision" Producer Claudia Milne said she would not disclose details who filmed the material used for the documentary.

"The scenes inside the Soviet Union were taken with enormous difficulty over four years," she said. "Cameras had to be smuggled in and bits of film smuggled out."

Tamil leaders in Colombo for direct peace talks

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lankan Tamil leaders based in India arrived here Saturday for their first visit in 18 months to resume direct peace talks and call for a ceasefire, a Tamil spokesman said.

The six-member Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) delegation who came on an Indian Airlines flight from Madras were whisked away by a waiting car at the airport to an undisclosed destination.

Security, which has been tight following bomb attacks at the capital, was stepped up following an explosion on Wednesday at the hotel where they had planned to stay.

TULF spokesman Neelan Tiruchelvan told Reuters the Indian government, mediator between Colombo and Tamil separatists, had obtained a guarantee of the group's safety from the Sri Lankan government.

Tamil official sources said the grenade tossed at the Empress Hotel was a warning by some extremists who wanted to disrupt a political solution of the three-year-old ethnic conflict.

About 4,000 people have died since the Tamils — 13 per cent of the 15 million Sinhalese-dominated population — launched their war for a separate state in the island's north and east.

"We will ask for a ceasefire," said Mr. Tiruchelvan. "We will also want to see the Tamil militant groups involved in the political exercise to end the conflict and we want some effort from the

government to include them in the talks."

A ceasefire agreed by TULF, militant groups and the government in the Bhutan capital Thimphu last year collapsed about three months later with both sides accusing each other of truce violations.

TULF leaders left Sri Lanka for Madras in south India after attending a government-sponsored conference on a peace plan in December 1984.

"Their return is a very important step in the political process," Mr. Tiruchelvan said.

He said the group's length of stay here would depend on the outcome of talks on Monday with President Junius Jayewardene.

Mr. Tiruchelvan said the Sri Lankan government gave him copies of documents Friday to show its commitment to the plan submitted to the Indian government and the basic concepts on devolution of power.

Meanwhile U.S. President Ronald Reagan has issued a letter of support for the government's proposals to settle Sri Lanka's three-year ethnic crisis, officials said Saturday.

In a message to President Jayewardene, Mr. Reagan said he "appreciates the importance of forging a broad consensus among Sri Lankans of all communities in favour of what you are trying to achieve. The need for your demonstrated statesmanship and wise leadership has never been greater."

Secrecy shrouds U.S. air crash

BAKERSFIELD, California (AP) — Armed guards on Saturday cordoned off the site where a U.S. air force plane, believed to be one of the military's most secret weapons, crashed.

The plane's pilot died in the crash, which ignited a 150-acre (60.75-hectare) brushfire.

U.S. air force guards armed with M-16 rifles and 45-calibre automatic weapons barred people from the crash site 19.3 kilometres northeast of Bakersfield, and civilian planes were prohibited from flying lower than 2,592.5 metres above the spot.

Military officials refused to divulge what kind of plane crashed, the base from which it took off, or its mission, but reports said the plane apparently was an F-19 stealth fighter.

The secret experimental aircraft employs the latest electronic technology, materials and aerodynamic design to elude radar and infrared sensors.

"It is clearly the F-19 that crashed," Saturday's Los Angeles Times quoted an investigator on the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee as saying.

The committee is investigating security leaks from a top-secret Lockheed California Co. plant where the F-19 is being developed.

The U.S. television network NBC quoted a Pentagon source and the New York Times quoted military technology experts as saying the downed plane was a secret F-19 prototype. Andy Lightbody, editor of a defence technology magazine called International Combat Arms, said industry and government sources had told him the same thing.

A U.S. air force source, who spoke to the Los Angeles newspaper on condition he not be identified, said a pilot in a chase plane witnessed the explosion. The use of a chase plane would be normal procedure in flight testing, especially with a craft as secret as the F-19, the source said.

General Michael McRaney, head of public affairs for the U.S. air force, said the plane had only one crew member and "was definitely not a bomber," but refused to say what it was.

One witness, Jason Burns, of Bakersfield, described the crash as "a bright flash and an orange light that nearly filled the sky up."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — With neither vulnerable and the opponents 40 on score, you hold:
♠K6 ♠A105 ♠AQ832 ♠1072
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K955 ♠KJ ♠A95 ♠Q1076
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ 3♣ 3NT Pass
4♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?